

The trials of the century
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Fisher king
Playwright John Fisher
goes into 'Combat!'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 26 years

Beers and bikers and bears! Oh my!

by Mister Marcus



Ron Triplett
and Van Lynn
Floyd, Bear
boys from
Ohio, at a
previous Bear
Rendezvous.

The spotlight this weekend will shine on two major San Francisco groups who are famed for their fundraising, brotherhood and camaraderie. Bears and bikers will be extremely busy! The Bears of San Francisco (BOSF) will stage International Bear Rendezvous '98, and the Inter-Club Fund the 32nd annual Motorcycle Awards.

As you read this, bear types from around the world are already pawing around favorite haunts in anticipation of the weekend, and biker types are doing the same. The airport is an unbelievable scene; ordinary travelers are scratching their heads at the sight of leathersmen and bears arriving in full regalia for the festivities. The schedule for both groups is listed here, in case you want to get in on the action.

Hirsute high jinks

The action for the bears begins tonight (Thursday, Feb. 12) when BOSF stages a pre-event welcoming beer bust at the Lone Star Saloon, 2100-2400. On Friday night, Feb. 13, you'll find all the judges and contestants for the International Mr. Bear title

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OJ gone bad?

Open Hand says its
old juice is okay

by Cynthia Laird

Prompted by Bay Area Reporter inquiries about the distribution of seemingly out-of-date orange juice to people with AIDS, administrators at Project Open Hand say that they believe it is safe—but recommend to worried clients they throw the drink away. A spokeswoman for the manufacturer said the company would recommend that people avoid drinking the beverage, and that those who do could get a stomach ache.

A concerned Open Hand client, who received several boxes of Mini Mott's orange juice with the notation, "Best if used by August 13, 1997," dropped the juice boxes off at the B.A.R. last week. Agency nutrition staff members have attempted to contact the client, who has not returned their phone calls, according to Carol Friedman, lead dietitian at the agency that provides food to thousands of people living with HIV/AIDS.

On Monday, February 9th, Friedman told the B.A.R. that Open Hand follows the policy of Second Harvest Food Bank, one of the largest in the country. She said the policy allows for boxed juice, such as the Mini Mott's, to be distributed up to six months after the use date because it is a "shelf stable" product, and because a "best if used by date" is different from an expiration date.

Friedman and the company, Connecticut-based Mott's, Inc., both say the boxed orange juice is pasteurized, so there is no danger of salmonella poisoning.

A Mott's spokesperson said the orange juice is good for up to a year after the date, but it could start to ferment. If people detect an odor upon poking the straw into the box they should definitely not drink it, the company said.

An unscientific observation of one of the boxes showed contents to be discolored, with a pungent odor.

While Friedman said that Open Hand's "utmost concern" is for the safety of their clients, she stopped

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Rains, rockslides roust Russian River residents

by Ron Lazar

Although this week's flooding of the Russian River in the Sonoma County town of Guerneville has not been as bad as in recent years—so far, at least—the neighboring community of Rio Nido is experiencing disastrous mudslides.

Rio Nido, which means "river nest," is historically known as a dark and dank place that Native American tribes shunned. Subject to drenching run-offs from its steep hill-sides, where shallow-rooted towering redwoods thrive, Rio Nido has in the past experienced its share of wind-toppled trees, flooded homes, and landslides. The situation has worsened in the last 20 years, many Russian River residents say, because of accumulated sediment at the mouth of the Russian River, near the town of Jenner by the Sea, and because the Army Corps of Engineers has not dredged the mouth of the river.

Shortly after midnight on Saturday, February 7, the problem reached catastrophic levels.

Residents of Canyon Three in Rio Nido were awakened in the wee hours of the morning by a terrible crashing and crunching sound. Oversaturated conditions had allowed the entire side of the hill to slide away, taking three houses with it. Fortunately, nobody was hurt. Unfortunately, more homes would follow.

As a bleak dawn broke over the wreckage, and intermittent rain taunted the community's patience, emergency personnel gathered equipment and vehicles to the site and National Guard helicopters thundered just above the treetops.

Rio Nido resident Randy Rodgers feared that "the vibrations from the aircraft were strong enough to cause more earth movement. The roar of the choppers made the floor of the house shake, which, of course, was also able to shake the trees and the ground, and cause more damage. Such loud sounds can do that and cause an avalanche. I can't believe they didn't think of that."

Local and national news crews were quick to arrive, although only CNN crews were allowed close enough to take video footage of the disaster. An emergency headquarters was set up at the Rio Nido Fire Station on Canyon Seven.



Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily: Russian River residents used large and small watercraft to get in and out of their homes—if they still had homes.

Conflicting information on Saturday afternoon created havoc for residents. Around 4 p.m., Sergeant Brigham reported from the Office of Emergency Services that Canyon Six, on the opposite side of the hill from the Canyon Three slide, was believed safe, and that no mandatory evacuation

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS




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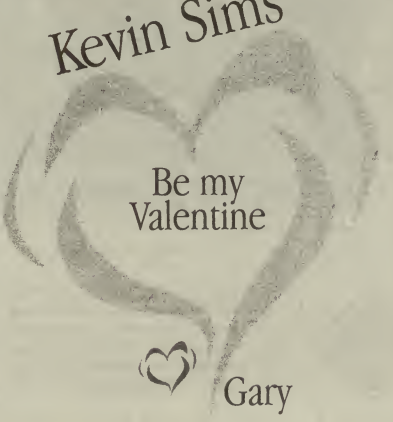
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Gary

GAPA to march in Chinese New Year Parade

by Cynthia Laird

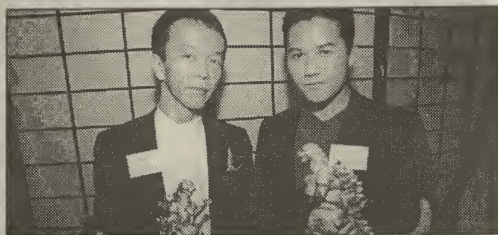
The Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) will make its fifth appearance at the San Francisco Chinese New Year's Parade this Saturday, February 14th; with more than a million spectators from across the country and around the world expected to watch televised coverage, the parade is an invaluable opportunity for GAPA and its members to promote awareness of gay Asians and Pacific Islanders.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of GAPA's formation. To celebrate, the group's theme for the parade contingent is "Celebrating a Decade of Empowerment."

The centerpiece of GAPA's parade contingent will be an elaborately decorated float featuring Mr. and Miss GAPA, Noel Talens and Cookie Wong, as the Jade Emperor and Yellow Empress, the supreme deities of Taoism. In attendance will be the Eight Immortals, mythical fairies with supernatural powers who have crossed the heavens to honor the Emperor's birthday, echoing the ongoing celebration of GAPA's 10th anniversary.

Established in 1988 as a community-based organization, GAPA's goals are to create awareness, develop a positive identity, and establish a supportive community for queer Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Dino Duazo, GAPA member and an organizer of this year's parade contingent, said that the group has invited other affiliated organizations to join in promoting the increased visibility of gay Asians and Pacific Islanders. Those expected to participate in the parade include Asian Pacific



1998 Godzy Award winners Kek Tee Lim and Eric Herbas.

Sisters, South Bay Queer and Asian, Cal-B-Gay, Stanford Queer and Asian, and the Gay Vietnamese Alliance.

"By joining together in unity and solidarity, the groups hope to overcome the routine marginalization of their members, and create a sense of common ground with the community at large," said Duazo.

GAPA is in a unique position to promote the inclusion of gay and bisexual Asians and Pacific Islanders as an integral part of the larger Asian Pacific community, and participation in the Chinese New Year's Parade is a prime example. For the past 10 years, through networking with leaders in the Asian Pacific community, taking part in mainstream community events, and through its continued efforts at providing a supportive environment for its members, GAPA has helped raise the understanding and awareness of gay Asians and Pacific Islanders as "part of the family."

The organization's efforts have long been recognized and acknowledged. Said Supervisor Mabel Teng, "GAPA has been an exemplary example in leading the Asian Pacific Islander community to new alliances and bold directions." It is a sentiment echoed by

Supervisor Leland Yee, who said, "As an elected official who continually strives to bridge communities of perceived or real differences of interests, I count on GAPA and its members as allies in that struggle."

Duazo said that GAPA has been a staple of support for numerous gay Asians and Pacific Islanders in San Francisco. Coverage of this Saturday's parade will reach all over the world, and as a result, GAPA has the potential of breaking through the isolation that gay Asians may feel in more hostile surroundings. This outreach effort represents the most significant aspect of GAPA's participation. According to Dennis Lee, past GAPA chair, what makes taking part in the parade so powerful is "the claiming of personal power, of being open, of being free, of being who I am." By sharing this uplifting sense of empowerment, GAPA's presence crosses over many borders, and its impact is felt far beyond its reach. ▼

For more information about GAPA's participation in the Chinese New Year's Parade or other upcoming events, call (415) 282-GAPA or email: gapa@slip.net.

Contra Costa County's center of activity for gay singles on Valentine's Day

by Terrance Boykin

The Rainbow Community Center in Contra Costa County will sponsor its first Singles & Friends Potluck this Saturday, February 14th, at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers at the center plan to

provide an open and relaxed atmosphere for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people to meet and make new friends. Organizers hope the event will become an annual institution.

"If you're single, this is the place to be on Saturday — and you'll still have time to do other

things," RCC Volunteer Gregory Sroda told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The Rainbow Community Center, located at 2637 Pleasant Hill Road in Pleasant Hill, is in its second year of operation. The center provides social, educational, and support services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people throughout the community.

The potluck menu is arranged by last name. Guests with initials A-H are expected to bring an appetizer or salad; initials I-P are assigned the entrees; and Q-Z are invited to bring dessert. Non-alcoholic drinks will be provided by the center.

"There are a lot of single people in the East Bay. Our vision for Valentine's Day is to create a place for everyone in the community to socialize and enjoy themselves. I think the RCC Singles & Friends Potluck is a great way to do that," said Ferdinand Garcia, Vice President of the center.

According to Markus Maguire, Head Bartender at D.J.'s, a local bar in Walnut Creek, "This is a welcome change of pace and an alternative to the bars." ▼

For more information, call the Rainbow Center at (510) 210-0563.



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Gay frat flap over charges of public sex at pledge party

'Blow job never happened,' president says

by Mark Mardon

What some say was no more than a lusty prank by high-spirited pledges at a fraternity party last October has mushroomed, by way of charges and counter-charges, into a scandalous brouhaha engulfing the nation's only gay-men's social fraternity. Amid the squabble, the organization's San Francisco chapter faces possible disciplinary action, ranging from a stern reprimand to the revocation of its charter.

The queer frat party, organized around a *Wizard of Oz* theme by pledges of Delta Lambda Phi's Zeta Chapter, based at San Francisco State University, was attended by some 25 to 30 pledges, active fraternity brothers, associate members, and invited guests, including one straight woman.

To almost everyone's surprise, one of the male guests stood very much out in the crowd.

"The pledges hired a male stripper," says Jerry Velasquez, president of Zeta Chapter. "He stripped to nothing and worked the crowd. It looked like things were going to go a bit further with one of the actives [current fraternity brothers] and the stripper. It looked like the active was going to give the stripper a blow job, but that did not happen."

Velasquez says that before any oral copulation could occur, he intervened.

"I'm the one who stopped the blow job from happening," he explains. Even though the fraternity has no rule that bars stripping, or even sex in general, he felt "it wasn't that kind of party."

He did not know the pledges had hired the stripper, Velasquez avers.

According to Zeta Chapter co-founder Dean Goodwin, who is one of three alumni assigned by the national Delta Lambda Phi (DLP) board to investigate the events of that night, "the only rule is against sex between an active brother and a pledge. That's improper influence, and possibly sexual harassment." Otherwise, he adds, the fraternity "is very sex-positive."

East coast rivalry?

Goodwin told the B.A.R., "We founded DLP to create a social support structure, especially for younger men when they're coming out to themselves or family or friends, when they're learning about safe sex, when they go to be tested the first time. We thought it would make a big difference in lots of people's lives. We also wanted people to feel very safe. Part of creating a safe space is to make everyone feel comfortable to a degree."

Apparently, however, some at the party found the strip act less than amusing. A couple of weeks after the party, says Velasquez, "I found out that the alumni [sic] who brought the straight female was offended and felt uncomfortable."



Dean Goodwin

Velasquez says the irked alumnus, Benjamin Dresner, wrote a letter to the DLP national office in Washington, DC, complaining of the stripper and alleging that oral sex in fact took place.

"The letter was inaccurate," says Velasquez, "in the sense that things he wrote that took place did not actually take place."

Yet it is not with Dresner that Velasquez takes greatest issue. He reserves his fiercest ire for three others whom he says lied to DLP's national board members in a deliberate attempt to smear Zeta Chapter. "Those same three coerced Dresner into writing the letter," Velasquez charges, in order to give the board hard evidence on which to act against the chapter.

Velasquez named two DLP alumni, Mark Coughlan and John Brown, along with associate member Brent Larson, as those allegedly disseminating untruths.

"We, the active body of the Zeta Chapter, feel that these three people are spreading lies about our chapter," says Velasquez. "We want them stripped from their brotherhood because of these rumors they've spread. They're the ones that provoked this investigation. They're the ones who strong-armed the alumnus. One of the three talked to the executive board, saying that the active members [at the pledge party] were having sex off in a corner, and that there were other sexual activities going on at the party. That's one of the charges the national board acted on."

When questioned about his role in the controversy, Brown, the current Mr. Northern California Drummer, said he had said nothing to the board about the matter, that he had been in Mexico during "the ordeal" and had learned about it only third-hand: "I was going on hearsay."

In response to Velasquez's accusation of lying, Brown said he has chosen not to be involved with the chapter any longer because of the way Velasquez is treating the issue.

Asked why anyone would want to besmirch the Zeta Chapter, Velasquez replied that a long-standing rivalry between the east-coast

Alpha Chapter and the west-coast Zeta Chapter might account for the attempted undermining.

"The majority of the national board is comprised of Alpha Chapter members," said Velasquez. "I guess they saw this as an opportunity to close our charter."

'We don't operate on hearsay'

Once the national DLP board received Dresner's inflammatory letter, says Velasquez, a majority of its members "were ready to suspend our charter without any investigation." Fortunately, before the board could act precipitously, the fraternity's "Big Kahuna" intervened.

National Trustee Dave West, who oversees the activities of all 19 DLP chapters, as well as the national office in Washington, DC, says board members were getting two different versions of what happened at the Zeta Chapter pledge party, and so decided to investigate.

The initial charges heard by the board seemed overly sensational and based on hearsay, says West: "I indicated [to the board] that since this was third-hand information, and we don't operate on hearsay, we had a requirement to follow due process" in finding out the facts.

"The board takes very seriously whatever happened," says West. "We're cognizant of the image we want to portray, and we have to decide what remedial action to take, if any." He adds that, "We're taking a careful look at what was said and what actually occurred. At this point, nobody is suggesting we're going to suspend or revoke the [Zeta Chapter's] charter."

West admits that while the DLP is 11 years old, it has yet to establish clear guidelines for sexual behavior among the brothers and pledges: "Is a stripper appropriate for undergraduates and a mixed crowd? Nobody [on the board] could put a finger on whether it is or not."

"We see this as a need and opportunity to come up with guidelines," says West.

Meanwhile, West says, the DLP board has authorized its team of investigators to look into all aspects of the pledge-party scandal, including whether "someone with a vendetta" might have deliberately lied about what went on.

"I don't know if there were games being played behind the scene," West is quick to point out. He does note, however, that "in our initial investigation, the board was satisfied that group sex did not occur. That would have been grounds for immediate suspension of the charter."

"My sense is this story grows and changes as it goes along," says investigator Goodwin. "Someone talked about the stripper, and the story got bigger as it passed from person to person."

Based on what he's heard so far, Goodwin adds, "the allegations are very different than what actually happened." ▼

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Crown contenders



Royal wannabes Alexis Miranda, Fred Lewis and Susie Cortright pose amiably at the Powerhouse Feb. 6. The meet and greet, hosted by former Emperor Stanley Boyd and Empress XVI Pushy Phyllis, gave SoMa habitués a chance to talk with the official emperor and empress candidates. Don't forget to vote for your choices on Sat., Feb. 14, at either the Leather Zone, Embassy Lounge, or SF Eagle.

Achtenberg: I hope to join Sunshine task force

by Cynthia Laird

Contrary to previously published reports, former San Francisco Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg has told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she is not opposed to Supervisor Tom Ammiano's proposed Sunshine legislation for nonprofit accountability; in fact, she hopes to be part of Ammiano's task force that will look into the matter.

Achtenberg, now a senior vice president for public policy with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, was critical of two local publications, saying reporters there never called her to check before running what she called inaccurate stories.

"It's not true," Achtenberg said when asked about a recent report in the *Bay Guardian* that she opposed Ammiano's legislation. "They never checked with me." She added that the weekly apparently relied upon a similar story in the *San Francisco Examiner*, and that the reporter there also failed to check with her.

"I want to work on Supervisor Ammiano's task force to determine what level of sunshine is needed," she reiterated to the *B.A.R.* "I'm the author of the Sunshine Ordinance."

Supporters of Ammiano's pro-

posed legislation wasted no time in getting Achtenberg, a former Clinton administration official, on board. AIDS activist Jeff Getty was preparing to call Achtenberg at press time to invite her to join the task

force. "We're glad to see that she wants to get involved. We know that she'll bring great ideas to the table."

Ammiano told the *B.A.R.*, "I welcome her inclusion on the task force." ▼

Open Hand gets Da Mayor to flip on Valentine's Day

by Cynthia Laird

Get ready for an old-fashioned pancake breakfast this Saturday, February 14th, when Project Open Hand celebrates its new building with an open house featuring Mayor Willie Brown, cast members from *Beach Blanket Babylon*, and other luminaries flipping pancakes on the griddle. The public is invited to the event, where the Bay View Open House Community Choir will provide the musical interlude.

The agency will also use the opportunity to honor Ruth Brinker, its founder, and to unveil a street plaque commemorating her contributions to San Francisco's AIDS community. City officials are finalizing arrangements for the installation of the plaque that will be placed on Willow

Alley, where scores of Project Open Hand volunteers pick up meals to be delivered daily to 1,600 people living with HIV/AIDS.

The agency moved into its new Polk Street building last year and has consolidated all of its operations out of the central location. Project Open Hand has received a \$750,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation toward the purchase of its new building. In order to receive the grant, the agency must raise the final \$1.4 million of its Food for Life capital campaign by September 30. It has already raised \$6.1 million of the \$7.5 million Food for Life campaign goal; the money has gone to pay for the consolidation of services at the Polk Street location, as well as to improve its services in Alameda County. Major contributors include the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, James C. Hormel, Jane Copelan in memory of Edgar Wolfe III, Chevron, the Gap Foundation, Macy's West, and a \$1 million donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

Project Open Hand is the world's largest provider of food to people living with symptomatic HIV and AIDS. Services include daily home-delivered meals, weekly groceries, and nutrition counseling and education. More than 1,200 volunteers help keep the operation running successfully. Since its inception, it has served over 4 million meals and provided 400,000 grocery bags. ▼

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Saturday's open house and pancake breakfast will be held from 10 a.m. until noon at 730 Polk Street, between Eddy and Ellis. To RSVP, call (415) 447-2444, ext. 225. For more information about the agency, call (415) 447-2300.

HIV contractors group flexes muscle

Integrated AIDS services delayed

by Cynthia Laird

This week the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council, acting at the behest of the HIV Contractors Association (HCA), recommended that the Department of Public Health's AIDS Office delay the request for proposal (RFP) deadline for integrated HIV/AIDS services. Last summer the planning council agreed to put primary medical care services out to bid, along with other services such as housing, case management, peer advocacy, and treatment advocacy. The change will result in a more comprehensive, integrated system for Ryan White CARE-funded services, the council believes.

The implementation delay was formalized Monday, February 9th after HCA, which is made up of representatives from virtually every AIDS service organization (ASO) in the city, presented a compelling case for the postponement.

Although the association supports the RFP, HCA President Jim Illig of Project Open Hand stressed that ASOs simply do not have enough time to line up permanent partners before the original February 20th deadline for RFPs.

Illig and other members of the HCA said the deadline was arbitrary and unreasonable, and pointed out that past successful collaborations resulted from months of planning and technical assistance. "It took over a year to develop new standards for case management, one of many service categories," Illig told the council. "The integrated service model calls for a reconfiguration of the entire service system focused on primary care, and this cannot be done in less than a month."

That prompted planning council co-chair Tom Calvanese to ask Dick Pabich, Mayor Willie Brown's AIDS liaison, to look into the city coming up with funds to provide the needed technical assistance, as outlined at last month's AIDS Summit.

Illig also pointed out that both the planning council and contractors repeatedly asked the AIDS Office to define "integrated services," and that the staff replied that people would "have to wait for the RFP."

Billy Pick, AIDS Office program manager, said the office would work with the HCA. Additionally, several council members suggested that the AIDS Office could extend the current contracts while the new RFP applications are reviewed and those contracts are negotiated so that there would be no gap in services.

John Gressman, planning council member, summed up the feelings of many when he said rushing ahead with the February 20th deadline would, in effect, set up the new service delivery system for failure. "We need to listen to them," said Gressman, referring to the HCA. "Our patients are going to suffer."

HCA meets monthly

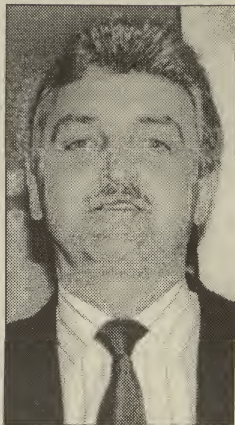
The HCA is probably the most influential group providing a unified voice of ASO representatives; currently, the group is discussing Supervisor Tom Ammiano's proposed Sunshine legislation for nonprofit accountability, al-

though it has not taken a formal position on the matter.

Illig also belongs to the San Francisco Association of Not-for-Profit Organizations and the Human Service Non-Profit Task Force, two other groups looking into the Sunshine proposals and other labor initiatives the Board of Supervisors is considering. The Human Service Non-Profit Task Force is working to oppose Ammiano's proposals, according to the minutes from the HCA's January 9th meeting.

According to Illig, HCA's monthly meetings are open to the public. "I'm keeping people informed and passing out information," he told the B.A.R. this week. ▼

For more information on the HCA, call (415) 447-2499.



Jim Illig

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OPEN FORUM

Doing it dogma-style

The divide between Maine and California has never seemed so large — and, paradoxically, so frighteningly small — as it does this week, now that (as we report on page 23) Maine voters have rescinded their gay-rights bill.

It certainly is a disappointment to see that those voters (*not* Maine residents overall, who support gay rights two-to-one, according to pollsters) were narrow and backward enough to exclude job and housing protections from their lesbian and gay neighbors. Backed into the corner of bigotry by right wingers' Bible-thumping, voters apparently bought those ridiculous but insistent arguments that anti-gay discrimination is *good*, that gay rights destroy moral fabric and weaken the institution of marriage.

Here in California, we may think we're a lot better off, but as Marghe Covino reports on page 19, the dependably rotten State Senator Pete Knight is wagging the same dogma as the anti-gay maniacs. Like Republican Representative Bob Barr of Georgia (the thrice-married self-proclaimed protector of family values who sponsored the Defense of Marriage Act), Knight devotes a considerable amount of his time to blabbing about how domestic partnerships weaken the institution of traditional marriage.

Golly, we're tired of being blamed for the ills of modern society! Why is it so difficult for Barr, Knight, and the rest of their ilk to get it through their heads that traditional marriage will survive or not survive based

upon its own merits, but it is not dependent upon our fraction of the population? If nothing else, they should realize that if imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, gays and lesbians in committed relationships are positively panegyric in their encomiums to the institution.

No, come to think of it, they are not going to understand panegyric encomiums.

Speaking of institutions, the HIV Prevention Planning Council will meet with a representative of City Attorney Louise Renne on Thursday, February 12 to discuss whether the HPPC is subject to the open-government principles of the Brown Act. When the opinion comes down that it does not have to follow the act's precepts — and that's how the decision will come down — it may be a bad thing and a good thing.

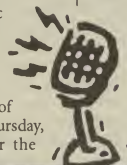
It's bad, because groups charged with looking after the common good should not be able to erect shields against scrutiny. (Common good means *your* good, and you should be able to see what they're up to.) But it also may be good in a roundabout way, if it shows that Sunshine laws are necessary and (despite what you may be hearing from some nonprofit groups) desirable.

We don't mean to single out the HPPC for criticism or imply that it is any more in need of Sunshine than other groups. It is just one example of a group that makes de-

cisions about your health in this town — one of a couple hundred, more or less. Actually, to give it due credit, the HPPC has always kept its meetings far more accessible to the public than, say, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. (Anyone who shows up at an HPPC meeting can stay; people who want to go to an SFAF board meeting have to write for an invitation and wait for a response.)

Over at SFAF, by the way, the wheels may be turning and the mechanism gearing up for a big new payroll outlay: an internal memo circulated between board members suggests that the executive director may be in line for a bonus. (In case you wonder how much that position paid this year or last year or the year before, *sorry*, the foundation hasn't released that information. The most recent figure that it has released is from 1995-96, when the executive director got \$148,794 — up from \$74,753 in '91-92.) If the memo we've seen really means what it appears to mean, gigantic raises aren't enough, and gigantic bonuses may be added to the already fatty pot. We can't believe it either, and will definitely have more word on that subject next week.

Finally, since it seems necessary for everyone in the press to say something about Monica Lewinski, we suggest the U.S. send her to Iraq. She seems capable of gaining access to presidential sites. ▼



Editorial

SF's new employment services for people with HIV

by Ron Hill and
Paul A. Vander Waerdt

Mayor Brown's approval of the workplace entry and re-entry recommendations presented at his January 27th AIDS Summit will make a broad range of new employment development resources available to assist HIV-positive San Franciscans in maintaining and securing successful employment. The creation of an HIV/AIDS Employment Development Unit in the Department of Public Health (DPH) represents a major investment on the city's part to ensure that people with HIV/AIDS have services responsive to their changing needs.

The goals of the city's new HIV/AIDS employment services are to provide multiple points of access to an integrated system that provides the services necessary for success in the workplace, efficient coordination of consumer access to resources across systems and funding streams, and systemwide standards of quality control. As explained in the *Report of the Summit on AIDS & HIV*, pp. 100-37, esp. pp. 118-23, effective coordination of resources across multiple government agencies clearly requires that a new city unit, rather than nonprofit contractor, administer the new services.

The new DPH unit will provide direct HIV/AIDS employment services, including assessment, benefits counseling on employment-related issues, and job counseling, retention, and placement; oversee existing city-funded nonprofit services; coordinate job training through the Workforce Development System; link consumers with the California Department of Rehabilitation; and plan, monitor, track, and evaluate the quality of HIV/AIDS employment services on a systemwide basis. The unit will be staffed at a level sufficient to place 600 people with HIV/AIDS in permanent jobs during its first year of operation — triple the number placed by existing services during 1997.

We, as co-chairs of the Subcommittee of the Mayor's AIDS Summit Steering Committee that developed these recommendations, see things differently than Stephen

LeBlanc, who wrote last week's "HIV Perspective" column in the *Bay Area Reporter*. He ignored the subcommittee's published rationale for creating the new DPH unit, and implied that the recommendations were reached without input from consumers and the agency to which he referred — Positive Resource (PR), now affiliated with AIDS Benefits Counselors (ABC). The facts are as follows.

The subcommittee's membership, which included six people living with HIV/AIDS as well as a member of ABC's Board of Directors, voted unanimously in favor of these recommendations after an intensive six-month planning process that included extensive input from consumers and providers alike. The subcommittee held two well-attended public forums, publicized through articles in the *B.A.R.* on September 11 and December 11, 1997, and the distribution of more than 1,500 flyers, to solicit public input. At the second forum, on December 16, 1997, the subcommittee strongly encouraged providers to submit written testimony on its draft recommendations. Although 13 of its staff and board members attended this forum, ABC did not respond to this request.

Despite that, we believe our subcommittee's recommendations reflect a generous assessment of ABC's organizational capacity.

If ABC Executive Director Paul Causey now objects to the results of the subcommittee's planning process, he has only himself to blame. Causey was a member of the subcommittee until he was terminated in October 1997 because of failure to attend meetings. Causey continued as a member of the AIDS Summit Steering Committee, however, and raised no objection to our subcommittee's recommendations. His complaints in the press after the fact do not excuse his failures to contribute to the planning process established by Mayor Brown to develop HIV/AIDS employment services in San Francisco.

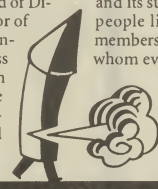
We are amazed that employees of city-funded AIDS service agencies, who might

be expected to support expansion of HIV/AIDS services, would publicly question the new DPH unit's "sensitivity to the needs of HIV+ people" before it has even begun operation, or claim, falsely, that subcommittee recommendations "undermine the authority of the Planning Council." (The council's authority is established by Federal legislation, and our recommendation that it clarify two specific policy issues does nothing to detract from that authority. The AIDS Summit Steering Committee and its subcommittees included numerous people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as members of the Planning Council, none of whom ever raised that baseless allegation.)

But perhaps we should not be surprised to find those with an economic stake in the current system of AIDS services objecting to reform, even when it results in creation of new services for people with HIV/AIDS.

The city's implementation of these recommendations will provide people with HIV/AIDS access to comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective services to secure and maintain successful employment. Mayor Brown deserves credit for his leadership in recognizing the importance of restructuring AIDS services to ensure their continued responsiveness to the needs of consumers of care, while our community may justifiably take pride in the fact that, once again, San Francisco's community-based AIDS planning has set the standard for the nation — this time by showing how to transform a system originally designed to help people die into one to help them live, independently and with dignity. ▼

Ron Hill is a San Francisco Health Commissioner. Paul A. Vander Waerdt is an independent consultant who has served as president of the board of directors of Positive Resource and as planning consultant to the board of counselors. The *Report of the Summit on AIDS & HIV* may be obtained by calling (415) 554-6657.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

The coroner and the Conkin

With some sadness we have learned that Dennis Conkin has left the *Bay Area Reporter*. Reporter Conkin has acted as an important reporter interfacing between the gay and lesbian community and the Medical Examiner's Office. Dennis has always been a fair and neutral reporter of those factors that interface with the Medical Examiner's Office, giving accolades where that was appropriate and being critical when those were the facts. As reporting in San Francisco is not always neutral, his was a fresh and appreciative style.

I would hope that the replacement for Dennis, if that is possible, is of similar capability.

Best wishes to Dennis in whatever direction his new career will take him.

Boyd G. Stephens, MD
Chief Medical Examiner
City and County of San Francisco

[Editor's note: Let's hope it doesn't take him in your direction.]

Grateful for Kairos

As Kairos Support For Caregivers makes new beginnings as a part of the services of the Shanti Project, I want to look back with gratefulness at the tremendous gift that Kairos has been to our community. I know we are deeply grateful to the many volunteers over the past 10 years, the dedicated staff, and the financial gifts that thousands of kind persons gave. We did not curse the darkness, but lit a light at the darkest time of the AIDS pandemic, a light that has blessed so many more than we will ever know. I am so grateful to have been the founder of Kairos Support for Caregivers, and a part of that light of compassion. Thank you everyone for Kairos Support for Caregivers! You did a great job, and our light continues to shine...

John McGrann
San Anselmo, CA

NTFAP's 'At-Will' policy

[The following letter was sent to the president of the board, National Task Force on AIDS Prevention:]

I am writing this letter in protest to a policy instituted by a community-based client service agency. An agency that is awarded money via state and federal contracts, in the name of providing client advocacy and client service. NTFAP, what ever happened to the NTFAP Positive Employee Support Group? The "witch hunt"/ disappearance of the HIV-positive NTFAP staff members, as well as other issues the people of color communities should be aware of.

The National Task Force on AIDS Prevention (NTFAP), an agency who claims to be advocates for gay men of color. The policy in protest is the "At-Will" employment policy:

"The NTFAP makes no promise or contract of continued employment, either expressed or implied. The NTFAP, in its sole judgment, reserves the right to end employment relationship with any employee at anytime for any reason, just as an employee is free to leave at any time (although advance notice is expected)."

The NTFAP's lack of fairness and compassion for its employees is inexcusable. The NTFAP powers-that-be exhibit a sad and sorry display of humanity. NTFAP uses the "At-Will" policy as a fear tactic (fear of unemployment, at the whim of what mood a supervisor or manager might be in).

The policy terrorizes employees from ever speaking out if they disagree with the agency's stance on an issue, or question the direction a program takes, and so on. The NTFAP powers-that-be show an eagerness to wrongly condemn and terminate any employee at their whim.

In effect, an employee can be accused of an act, their employment terminated, and the employee has no say or forum to challenge accusations, nor a venue to protest or set the record "straight."

I certainly hope the NTFAP takes a very hard look at and dismantles this unhealthy "At-Will" policy. Improve your grievance procedures, hire competent, educated and compassionate leaders.

NTFAP, set your employees free of fear and retribution for questioning agency policies.

D. Walker
San Francisco

Life is a cabaret review

[The following letter was sent to reviewer Jim Van Buskirk:]

Thank you for your kind words and your generous review of my show. I really appreciate it. It was a joy to discover it in the *Bay Area Reporter*. Thanks so much for your support.

Paula West
San Francisco

Please address me as Mr.

I am replying once again to Victoria Secret (Feb. 5, '98) since I seem to be the main subject. I was not going to reply to her original letter until I read Erin Sousa's reply, which I did not feel at all addressed Secret's obvious slight on Ms. Brewer, and straight cross-dressers in general. This second letter continues her more than subtle transphobic slant (putting Ms. Brewer's name in quotes, and now referring to me as "Ms." Vavra). Although I am proudly out as an FTM cross-dresser and polysexual person, when I represent myself as Francis, in writing or in public, that is my male persona, which is always "Mr.," he, "him." I would never address Victoria Secret as "Mr. Secret," and I would expect the same.

I mentioned Ms. Secret's orientation only as a "pot calling the kettle black" issue, as I had understood from Secret herself that she was one of the group at an ETVC party (albeit several years ago), and I publicly apologize if mistaken. At the same time, I still feel there is no excuse to cut down any group, especially another sexual (or gender) minority, regardless of one's own orientation. I did not represent ETVC in my letter, only using my title(s) because I have always professed and practiced the eradication of prejudice and misunderstandings between individuals and groups whenever possible. In my personal and transgendered life, I am a writer and speaker on such issues, and it still amazes me how much ignorance there is "out there," even in the Bay area, about many minority groups. To see it in our own is especially disheartening, hence my reply.

Perhaps the person to be targeted should be the writer of the *Union Square* sitcom which contained the homophobic line of dialogue. At the same time, they should be commended for putting a trans-character who was fairly positive, on the screen, and also for having a second character apologizing to the first with "I didn't mean that," which Ms. Secret has still not acknowledged. I have always admired Ms. Secret for her lip-synch stage acts and awesome waitressing skills under adverse conditions. So, enough?

And when we meet sometime, please address me as "Mr." Thanks.

Mr. Francis Vavra
Berkeley

Without getting personal

In a previous installment of this forum, I addressed the concerns of Ms. Victoria Secret regarding opinions expressed in the ETVC newsletter. Such opinions, I went on to explain, are clearly those of individual newsletter contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views and beliefs of ETVC.

Subsequently, another ETVC member expressed opinion in this forum which included statements about Ms. Secret's private life. Once again I wish to state that ETVC neither sanctions nor censors the opinions of its individual members, wherever these opinions may appear. Further, with regard to such individual opinions, ETVC neither advocates nor validates statements of a personal or private nature about second or third parties addressed therein.

Let us continue our valuable exchange of opinions without getting personal.

Erin Souza
ETVC President
San Francisco

The Grand Inquisitor

Well, it's sure great to know the fox is guarding the henhouse. That Ken Starr - what a guy.

We learn on p. 46 of *Time* magazine, Feb. 9, 1998, that on the side Ken rakes in over \$1 billion per year representing Brown & Williamson.

In other words, Ken Starr is a tobacco lawyer. How neutral and unbiased.

We also learn from *Time* that in one role he shields Big Tobacco from a threat coming largely from the direction of the White House, and then as Grand Inquisitor decides "how hard to put the screws to that same White House."

In the same article we also learn Starr was chief of staff in 1981 under Ronald Reagan's very first attorney general, and then 2 years later Ronnie named Kenny to the DC Federal Appeals Court. These are certainly impeccable credentials for an independent Grand Inquisitor.

Big Tobacco would burn down the White House and the entire country to get off the hook and continue the drug delivery trade. Why else are they so eager to pay \$350 billion or more and get legal protection in the bargain. \$350 or \$400 or \$500 billion is chicken-feed to Big Tobacco, as so are popular, duly-elected presidents.

But fortunately we have guys like Ken Starr, Pat Robertson, and Jessie Helms to protect us. Not to mention the fellow in the Vatican.

Randal Walsh
San Francisco

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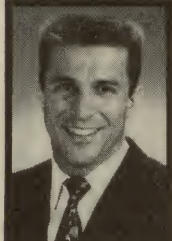


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Live, live, liver: One PWA's journey

[The following letter was sent to Dr. Nancy Asher, UCSF Medical Center.]

I am writing to you because I am desperate for a liver transplant but at the same time I do not understand why you won't submit to MediCal for payment for this procedure.

Your institution has set up this protocol but yet nothing has been done. I personally feel that any doctor who refuses to request payment for a life-saving surgery is definitely not working in my best interest. Won't you please reconsider this for me?

After some checking I found that this surgery does not require FDA approval. Also, 36 or so of these have been performed at the University of Pittsburgh with a good success rate under Dr. Fong.

I liked you when I met you and know you are most capable of saving my life. Please don't let me die over all this red tape. I believe MediCal might pay for this if you will file a Treatment Authorization Request.

Walter Allen Hext
Palm Springs, CA

Working gal

In the February 5 *Bay Area Reporter* I was quoted as expressing concerns about one of the recommendations from the Subcommittee on Workplace Entry and Reentry of the Mayor's Summit on AIDS & HIV ["Positive Resource: It's working"]. I would like to clarify that I was commenting on the recommendation that a member of the "HIV/AIDS Employment Development Committee of the Health Commission" be appointed to the HIV Health Services Planning Council, and not that a member of the health commission itself be appointed to the council. A member of the health commission has been appointed to the CARE Council since the inception of the council, which has served an important role in supporting coordination between the council and the health commission. The health commission has long supported the activities of the planning council and vice versa. I did not mean to imply in any way that the health commission is undermining the planning council.

I would also like to clarify that I was commenting from my perspective as a planning council member regarding the recommendations affecting the planning council. That should not in any way be construed as reflecting the position of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation on the recommendations of the summit, or the importance of workplace entry and re-entry programs. SFAF supports the summit and its recommendations and does not believe that the recommendations from the summit undermine the planning council's authority. The foundation supports the development of programs and policies that assist people living with HIV/AIDS in returning to or entering the workforce. In addition, SFAF greatly appreciates Mayor Brown's leadership on AIDS and his continued commitment to working in partnership with the community as demonstrated through the summit planning process.

Laura Thomas
Public policy associate
San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Fundraising middlemen

Re: SFAF on the phone, 1/22/98 letter from Jim Drew: I think you'll find that the phone call in question was not from SFAF at all, more likely, it will have come from the professional fundraising company hired by SFAF to raise money for them.

SFAF will of course pay that company a fee for this professional service, something that most major charitable institutions do to raise their funds. Of course, hiring a professional fundraiser to raise money for your charity is an expensive business, these people are professionals after all, and their services do not come cheap. Hence, the majority of your donation will go towards covering the fee charged by the fundraiser to the charity for raising their funds. Which means, in plain old English, you're not donating to a charity, you're giving money to a corporation who will then give some of your money, after they've extracted their costs and expenses, to a charity. The person making the call will be an employee of the fundraising company, paid barely minimum wage, no doubt, who will receive a pathetic bonus for getting you to submit your donation via credit card instead of via mail, which is why the caller seemed to be pushing so hard for you to pay by credit card. You see, every one wants their share of your donation.

Of course, do not take this all out on SFAF, as mentioned, most major fundraising institutions will use this method to raise funds. The moral being, make your donation direct to the charity of your choice. When a fundraiser calls you, ask them to remove you from their list, this will terminate the call and stop them calling you back in the future. By giving to charity directly we can remove the proverbial middleman, though with SFAF it would seem they have more middlemen than most!

Steev May
San Francisco

Queer TV guide

In the Jan. 29 issue of the *B.A.R.*, Victoria A. Brownworth asks, "Just how lavender is the tube?" It's a question that begs asking, but it's one Brownworth seems ill-equipped to answer. Gauging the "queerness" of television takes more than a cursory glance, more than a few nights of "Must-See-TV," more than scattershot analysis. In her shallow critique of "things queer in TV land," Brownworth made several egregious errors and presumptions:

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has its shortcomings, but it is the only national lesbian and gay group that consistently (and fairly) acts as a media watchdog, and to call the group's media alerts "pathetic" is a potshot.

David Crane is referred to — although not by name — as "a gay producer" of *Friends*. He is more than that; he is co-creator. Brownworth also presumes *Veronica's Closet* "obviously doesn't have a single queer producer or writer." Crane also co-created that show.

To prop up her not-so-veiled allusions to Rosie O'Donnell's sexual orientation, Brownworth points to her employment of lesbian comedian Kate Clinton as a writer. Clinton hasn't worked for *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* for at least a year, and it's insulting to imply that some sort of sisterly solidarity (and not Clinton's talent) landed her the job.

In her misguided dissection of the homosexual undertones in *Frasier*, Brownworth mentions openly gay actor Dan Butler, but overlooks Edward Hibbert's portrayal of food critic Gil Chesterton. Brownworth points to Butler as "the only out fag on network TV." This statement couldn't be further from the truth. Off the top of my head, I can name Mitchell Anderson (*Party of Five*), ANT (*Unhappy Ever After*), Patrick Bristow (*Ellen*), and Bill Brochtrup (*Total Security* and *NYPD Blue*).

Brownworth's mistakes aside, there is an increasing amount of gay content on network television. In the past few weeks, several shows have introduced gay characters and stories: *Brooklyn South*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Homicide: Life on the Streets*, *Just Shoot Me*, and *Party of Five*, to name a few. Granted, few of these story lines will be long-lasting, but they point to the desire of writers, producers, and network executives to integrate gay life into mainstream television.

Kevin D. Melrose
Associate editor, TV columnist
Philadelphia Gay News

Quantum leap forward with GLAAD

Considering the parallel analysis shared by Victoria S. Brownworth and GLAADAlert around such television programs as *Ask Harriet*, *Veronica's Closet*, and *The Simpsons*, it was disappointing to have her call our publication "pathetic." It is also ill-informed to claim that GLAADAlert would lead anyone to believe that, beyond *Ellen*, "lesbians and gay men have all they need in the way of queer TV." Clearly, better representations of our community, especially in television, don't happen overnight. But through our collective efforts as a community, we took a quantum leap forward in 1997, and *Ellen* is the cornerstone of that.

GLAADAlert, which reaches 70,000 people via e-mail each week and tens of thousands more through community newspapers such as the *B.A.R.*, features commentary on the ongoing struggle for fair, accurate and inclusive media representations of our community. In the past month alone, the activation tool has mobilized readers to contact ABC, NBC, FOX, the WB, and HBO to urge the networks to develop quality lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender characters. GLAAD also works proactively within the entertainment industry to help change attitudes and foster greater awareness to improve representations before they are created. Hopefully, the *B.A.R.*'s ongoing series on "things queer in TV land" will include more careful observations about the medium and GLAAD's role in it.

I urge Ms. Brownworth and all concerned about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender media representation take a closer look at our many programmatic efforts and volunteer opportunities via our web site at www.glaad.org, or call us locally at (415) 861-2244.

Don Romesburg
GLAAD SF Media Resource Center Manager

Victoria Brownworth responds:

While I feel GLAAD offers a service to the LGBT community, in recent years the organization has focused almost exclusively on certain kinds of television to the exclusion of books, magazines, newspapers, and other forms of media in which the LGBT community is involved. As an avid reader of the weekly GLAADAlert, it seems increasingly obvious that GLAAD has hitched itself to the celebrity star wagon and, as a consequence, seems never to find fault with anything related to its celebrity friends. For example, while *Ellen* certainly presents programming that is extremely pro-lesbian and pro-gay, the fact that there have yet to be any significant characters of color on this program has not been raised as an issue by GLAAD. My suggestion as a media critic is that GLAAD be more critical of the media.

POLITICS

Fong launches senate bid

by Wayne Friday

State Treasurer **Matt Fong** kicked off his campaign for the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate last week and, for the moment, the front-runner for the GOP nomination to take on incumbent Democratic Senator **Barbara Boxer** in the November general election. However, Fong is said to be having difficulty raising the big bucks necessary to run against Boxer, and some polls show him losing ground to **Darrell Issa**, one of his primary opponents.

Fong, the 44-year-old son of former longtime Democratic California Secretary of State **March Fong Eu**, spoke at a San Francisco news conference last week. He pledged, if elected, to "go to Washington to throw out the entire Internal Revenue Service code." He promised further that he would "cut taxes," while accusing Boxer of having "voted for every single tax increase to come across her desk" since being elected in 1992.

Fong, who will face millionaire San Diego businessman **Issa** and North Coast Representative **Frank Riggs**, both conservatives, in the June GOP primary, said his top priorities as a U.S. senator would be to replace the income tax with "a fair and simple tax," and abolish the capital gains tax and the "anti-family" inheritance tax. Fong stated, "I believe the revenue-neutral flat tax with the home mortgage deduction is the way to go," adding that he would also support replacing the current income tax with either a national sales tax or value-added tax if that was the will of the majority. "Flat tax, national sales tax, value-added tax — all are better than what we have now," Fong said.

The treasurer, a fourth-generation Chinese-American, discussed a slew of other issues with reporters during a statewide blitz announcing his campaign. Fong said that if he were currently in the Senate, he would back a military strike against Iraq, block securities litigation against high-tech companies on the state level, and would be stingy with loans to help the struggling Asian economy.

As for other issues, Fong, who is thought to be a "moderate" on gay rights (though he never brought up the issue nor was he asked about it by reporters), discussed everything from abortion to bilingual education. He said he would not challenge existing federal law giving women the right to terminate their pregnancies in the first trimester. He called a proposed constitutional amendment to overturn that law "divisive," but was clear that he opposed the late-term abortion called "intact dilation and evacuation." He doesn't, however, feel the issue should be a litmus test for GOP candidates, as some GOP leaders have proposed.

Mr. Fong characterized bilingual education as a failed experiment, giving it "a big fat F," and assailed Barbara Boxer for supporting it. He declared that he is "not afraid of alienating Latino voters" by voicing his opposition to it.

On federal loans to Asia — and in particular the bailout of South Korea — Fong cited his experience as state treasurer during the 1994 Orange County bankruptcy, calling for "more conditions" before approving more U.S. contributions. "I would be against putting in more money to the

IMF [International Monetary Fund] because all you're doing is rewarding bad behavior, just like Orange County," Fong said.

In recent statewide polls, Fong holds a small lead over his two GOP primary rivals. However, Issa's deep pockets and the likely boost Representative Riggs will receive from GOP right-wingers cause some politicians to believe that an upset in June could spell defeat for Fong.

While not dismissing Mr. Issa, Boxer's camp reportedly feels that, with his high statewide name identification, Fong will still most likely be her Republican opponent come November. In the latest Field Poll, Senator Boxer led Fong 43-38 percent and Issa 48-31 percent. The poll was completed only days before Riggs entered the race.

Politics and people

Let the games begin! The final line-up of constitutional California candidates looks like this for the June open primary:

Governor: **Jane Harman** (D), **Alfred Checchi** (D), **Gray Davis** (D), **Dennis Peron** (R), and **Dan Lungren** (R);

U.S. Senator: **Barbara Boxer** (D), **Matt Fong** (R), **Frank Riggs** (R), and **Darrell Issa** (R);

Lieutenant Governor: **Cruz Bustamante** (D), **Tony Miller** (D), **Tim Leslie** (R), **Richard Mountjoy** (R), and **Noel Irwin-Hentsche** (R);

Attorney General: **Bill Lockyer** (D), **Lynn Schenk** (D), **Charles Calderon** (D), **Michael Cappizzi** (R), and **Dave Stirling** (R);

Treasurer: **Phil Angelides** (D), **Curt Pringle** (R), and **Jan Goldsmith** (R);

Controller: **Kathleen Connell** (D) and **Ruben Barrales** (R);

Secretary of State: **Michela Alioto** (D) and **Bill Jones** (R);

Insurance Commissioner: **Hal Brown** (D), **Diane Martinez** (D), and **Chuck Quackenbush** (R);

State Superintendent of Public Instruction (Non-Partisan): **Delaine Eastin** and **Gloria Matta Tuchman**.

There are nearly four months until the June 3rd primary, but Sacramento political odds-makers are (at the moment) forecasting that Gray Davis will win the Democratic nomination and face Dan Lungren for governor. (Davis

and Lungren are raising campaign money the old-fashioned way — they scramble for it — while "Checkbook Al" Checchi is spending his own money, reportedly nearly \$8 million so far. By most accounts, Davis has \$3.8 million in the bank compared to Lungren's \$2.7 million, as of the first of the year.) It's only a hunch, but look

for popular U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein** to eventually endorse Representative **Jane Harman** in the Democratic gubernatorial race. **Matt Fong** and **Darrell Issa** are a toss-up on June 3rd to face incumbent **Barbara Boxer** in November.

Cruz Bustamante and **Richard Mountjoy** will do battle in a November face-off for lieutenant governor. **Bill Lockyer** will go up against **Dave Stirling** in a bitter battle for attorney general. It's **Phil Angelides** versus **Curt Pringle** in the November treasurer's race. **Marin Supe Hal Brown** meets incumbent **Chuck Quackenbush** in the insurance commissioner general election. **Delaine Eastin** wins re-election, plus **Kathleen Connell** and **Bill Jones** also win again.

There will be four contested races for Municipal Court judgeships this June in San Francisco. Incumbents **Dorothy von Beroldingen** and **Kevin Ryan**, both endorsed by Judge **Herb Donaldson**, are excellent judges and deserve to keep their jobs. Municipal Court Judge **David Ballati** is deserving of re-election, and challenger **V. Roy Lefcourt** would definitely be a good replacement for Judge **Wallace Douglas**.

The contest for a Superior Court seat in June pits two fine attorneys against each other. Deputy Public Defender **Ron Albers** is the probable winner here.

In N.Y., Emily's List, a political advocacy group for women that has an extensive fundraising network, quickly endorsed **Geraldine Ferraro** for the U.S. Senate last week. My Manhattan contacts tell me that gay and lesbian activists are lining up behind Ferraro, a longtime friend of the gay and lesbian community.

Finally, Senator **Barbara Boxer**, thought only a few months ago to be "political toast" — the GOP already had her seat in their "win" column — now looks like a solid favorite for re-election. Join me for an in-depth look at the Boxer campaign next week. ▼



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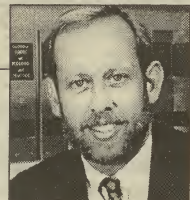
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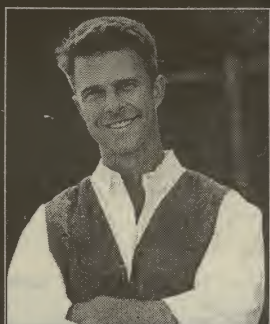
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Perchance to dream

by Beth Elliott

Up the Long Ladder and Down the Short Rope Dept.: Once again, the death penalty is in the news, between now-confessed Unabomber Ted Kaczynski and the convicted but now "born-again" Karla Faye Tucker. And so, another quasi-official gay/lesbian position (against) comes into play, predictably raising my suspicions.

I was brought up short by Tucker's execution, especially as I'm still haunted by this paper's report of a visitor who was gay-bashed by teenagers on Muni—even though she knew martial arts, she did not fight back because she did not believe in using force against "children." If there's any violent action that's inherently moral, it would be self-defense against violent force. We don't defend ourselves against bashing enough—if we did, the number of attacks would go down because the risks would be too high. Yet, in the name of non-violence, we fail to mitigate violence.

Does the state have a right to take a life? The only legitimate reason to give any government any power at all is hiring it to protect us from force and fraud. Is capital punishment an effective deterrent to fatal force? Vehement

both in print and on the Internet. In other words: his killing spree worked. Unless public silence is part of the outcome of his actions, a grave injustice will have been done. He escaped the electric chair; let his punishment be the torture of knowing no one will have the chance to read any more of the rants he brought to our attention through his campaign of violence. If there ever was a case in which the murderer's own death might be necessary for the victims and their families to get closure, this would be it.

At the opposite extreme is the sad case of another murderer, Karla Faye Tucker, who seemed to have been quite successfully rehabilitated during the long appeals process. It was she who turned to religion and counseled others with drug problems, not the unrepentant terrorist Kaczynski, who paid the ultimate price for her crimes.

It is difficult to fault the Texas Clemency Board honestly for concluding, unanimously but for a few abstentions, that her crimes were too vicious and inhuman to allow interference with the process of removing their perpetrator from human society per-

witnesses. The axe was later found still stuck in the woman's corpse. Tucker and partner not only bragged about the murders to friends, but she described having an orgasm with each blow of the axe she struck.

As usual, both left and right have exploited the Tucker case for their respective agendas, but with a twist. Amnesty International sent Bianca Jagger to lobby for clemency, even though Tucker is the furthest thing from a prisoner

of conscience one could imagine. And Pat Robertson and his followers, who normally quote the Bible to advocate the death penalty, are quoting scriptures trying to spare Tucker.

Actually, it was militant Christianity with the, um, bigger axe to grind. The most simplis-

tic among the theocrats believe no non-Christian can ever act completely ethically, given human beings' "fallen" nature, the result of original sin. On the other hand, as Tucker herself said, anyone truly "born again" is guided by Jesus to behave ethically—despite the very public failings of some of the supposed Christians who preach the perfidy of us lesbians and gays to vast television audiences.

Obviously, clemency for Tucker would mean a major public relations and political payoff, since it would give quasi-legal sanction to the notion that being "born again" (no matter how sincere or lasting the conversion) makes one a different, better person—different and better enough to be let off the hook of continuing responsibility for a crime as heinous as Tucker's. Terry Meeuwsen, co-host of *The 700 Club*, wrote to Governor Bush: "Karla is a walking, talking example of the miracle of redemption."

Perhaps. But Texas served notice on whiners of all persuasions that responsibility for murder is as lasting as death is for the victims. Neither her abusive upbringing and drug use, nor her later conversion, could undo Tucker's acts—or their dire consequences. If her execution makes some loser think twice before justifying force against others with the "unfairness" of their own situation, Tucker's prayer that either outcome for her would do something positive ("glorify my Lord") will have been answered.

It should have been Kaczynski executed. It should be the hate-mongers who bombed the abortion clinic, killing a guard and injuring a nurse. Instead, it was someone changing her life for the better. It probably wasn't fair. It probably was just. ▼

Despite the good works Tucker eventually came to do in prison, there's still the matter of defining some acts as unacceptable among human beings. Tucker's tragedy doesn't undo the greater tragedy she inflicted on innocents.

arguments have been made for both sides of that proposition.

There is, however, one thing that strikes me as really creepy about the Unabomber case. Apparently, there is a rarely applied law that allows for including in the sentencing a ban on a prisoner's publishing anything. I hope this is made part of Kaczynski's sentence; if it is not, the outcome of his prosecution will be as gut-wrenchingly horrible as any terror movie—like *Silence of the Lambs* or *Black Widow* without the heroines prevailing at the last moment.

Kaczynski stated unapologetically in his manifesto that he killed and maimed to draw attention to his philosophy and politics. And now, he has an audience eager to publish his next writings,

manently. Despite the good works Tucker eventually came to do in prison, there was still the matter of defining some acts as unacceptable among human beings. Tucker's tragedy, alas, does not undo the greater tragedy she and a cohort inflicted on two innocent people.

To recap, Tucker accompanied a male friend to another man's house with the intent of stealing his motorcycle or some parts. Her accomplice beat the cycle owner with a hammer; when the beaten man began making gurgling noises, Tucker grabbed a nearby pickaxe to silence him—permanently, as it turned out. Discovering a woman the first victim had picked up at a pool party that day cowering under bedsheets, Tucker turned the axe on her to leave no

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22 years ago this month: Plato dies in a botched robbery

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: Actor Sal Mineo is stabbed to death in West Hollywood February 12, 1976.

On the evening of February 12, 1976, a resident of a West Hollywood apartment building heard someone in the street crying out for help. Hurrying downstairs, the man found actor Sal Mineo bleeding to death from stab wounds, the victim of a bungled robbery attempt. In a sad twist of fate, Mineo's life ended just as he was beginning to reconcile his homosexuality with his career.

The child of Sicilian immigrants, Mineo was born in the Bronx in 1939. He was a tough kid growing up, much like the characters he later played on screen. At age eight, he was expelled from parochial school for being a troublemaker. He subsequently joined a street gang, and by the age of 10 was taking part in robberies. Trying to keep him off the street, his mother enrolled him in dance and acting classes, where Mineo immediately shone. In acting school, an agent spotted the 11-year-old's potential and cast him in the Broadway run of Tennessee Williams' play, *The Rose Tattoo*.

Mineo appeared in Williams' play for over a year, then took the role of the young prince in *The King and I*, opposite Yul Brynner and Gertrude Lawrence. With those impressive stage credits behind him, Mineo went to Hollywood in 1955, where he made his first movie, *Six Bridges to Cross*, launching his career as a celluloid juvenile delinquent. But it was his second film that same year, *Rebel Without a Cause*, that made a star of the teenager. For his compelling portrayal of the anguished Plato, Mineo received an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

The character of Plato is significant in gay filmography because he was the first gay teenager in Hollywood history, a sensitive kid with photos of movie star Alan Ladd taped inside his school lock-

er. Plato was also achingly in love with his best friend, Jim, played by James Dean. Like many gay characters in films of that era, Plato died a violent death at the movie's end, while Jim went on to a heterosexual future with Judy, the character played by Natalie Wood.

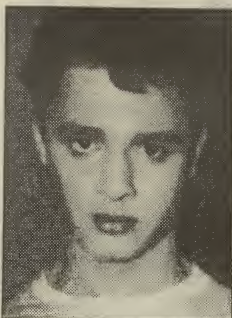
In subsequent films during the 1950s like *Crime in the Streets*, *Dino*, and *The Young Don't Cry*, Mineo continued to be cast as a street punk or disaffected youth. His roles earned him the nickname "The Switchblade Kid," and his rebel persona made him a hero among teenagers. When at 20 he launched a brief career as a rock 'n' roll singer, Mineo's first single, "Start Movin'" stayed in the Top 40 for 13 weeks and eventually went gold.

Mineo got a chance at a few meatier film roles as he entered his twenties. In 1959, his performance as jazz drummer Gene Krupa was a critical success. The following year, Mineo's portrayal of a young Auschwitz survivor in *Exodus* with Paul Newman and Eva Marie Saint garnered him a second Oscar nomination.

But with his teen years and baby-faced looks behind him, the good roles began to dry up for Mineo. In the mid-1960s, Mineo observed that he was "on the industry's weirdo list," offered roles mostly as psychotics in forgettable films like *Who Killed Teddy Bear?* In 1971, he played his last movie role in *Escape from the Planet of the Apes* - as an ape.

Several factors worked against Mineo in Hollywood. His dark Italian features immediately set him up for ethnic typecasting. In addition, Mineo talked openly about his sexuality. Commenting on the death of his *Rebel Without a Cause* co-star, James Dean, in a car crash, Mineo was quoted as saying, "We never became lovers, but we could have - like that." He also admitted, "I like them all - men, I mean," though he added, "and a few chicks now and then."

When his film career waned, Mineo took sporadic television roles but found greater success back on the stage. He directed the Los Angeles and New York productions of *Fortune and Men's*



Real rebel: 18-year-old Sal Mineo in 1957's *Dino*.

Eyes, the John Hubert play about homosexuality behind prison bars. Mineo also appeared in a San Francisco production of *P.S. Your Cat Is Dead* as a bisexual cat burglar. He was set to reprise that role in Los Angeles, but it was on his way home from rehearsal that he was fatally stabbed.

Rumors flew about Mineo's murder, all of them suggesting that to live as a gay man was to court danger. The most widespread story was that he was killed by a hustler he had brought home for sado-masochistic games, but in fact, he was murdered by a stranger who was attempting to rob him. Mineo's assailant was arrested, convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1979. The teen idol and two-time Oscar nominee left an estate of only \$8,500. ▼

David Bianco, M.A., is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com.

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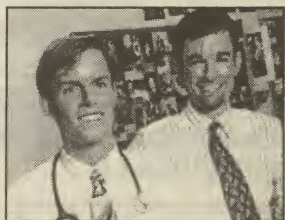
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Suicide in Little Rock

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

A newspaper's irresponsible practice of publishing the names and addresses of men arrested in public sex raids has again led to one of the victims committing suicide, this time following a January 30 story in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. In the story, "24 men are cited in 3-day park sting," the newspaper published eight men's names and addresses for being arrested on charges of "public sexual indecency: a misdemeanor." One of those men killed himself.

The *Democrat-Gazette* does not print the identities of others arrested in misdemeanor consensual sex-related offenses, or any other misdemeanors. When the newspaper ran a June 25, 1993 article on a major heterosexual prostitution sting, it did not identify any of the men arrested, and even blurred the photo of one man to protect his identity.

Over a year ago, a GLAAD representative met with Frank Fellone, the deputy managing editor of the *Democrat-Gazette*, in part because of past instances of the newspaper publishing the names of men arrested in parks for misdemeanor offenses. According to local GLAAD contacts, the newspaper had stopped printing the names except where a public figure was involved, but reintroduced the practice in the January 30 story.

As local GLAAD contact David Ivers noted, when GLAAD and the newspaper representatives met, "we predicted that the *Democrat-Gazette* was not only going to ruin careers but drive someone to kill himself."

"Now it has happened." "The newspaper must understand that printing the names will not stop men from seeking out anonymous sex with other men. That will not occur until society, including the media, stops making it so painful and difficult for people to come out of the closet, and until laws in employment and other areas protect lesbians and gay men from discrimination based on their sexual orientation."

GLAAD and other organizations are currently seeking a meeting with the editor and publisher of the *Democrat-Gazette*. Please contact the newspaper and firmly but rationally explain to them the clear bias of their actions and the intolerably dire consequences of them. Also, explain to them how societal forces of homophobia lead deeply closeted men to end up seeking out such

furtive sexual encounters.

Contact: Walter Hussman, Publisher, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, P.O. Box 2221, Little Rock, AR 72203, phone: 501-378-3485

Yes, he's gay

To promote their show *rough cut*, cable network TNT has placed a full-page advertisement in the March edition of *Movieline* which draws attention to the unnecessary scrutiny faced by openly lesbian and gay people in the entertainment industry.



GLAAD

In large font, the top half of the page reads, "YES, HE'S GAY." Below it says, "Now, can we please talk about the movie?" The bottom has the *rough cut* logo, and its slogan: "rough cut — where movies come first."

The ad's assertion, that an entertainer should be able to be open about being gay, but that the person should be judged on the merit of his work, articulates in a clear and simple way the need for greater honesty about sexual orientation in Hollywood as a means of getting past it. In short, once Hollywood becomes comfortable with openly gay entertainers, we can all get over it and just celebrate their performances.

Please commend TNT for this refreshing and clear call for greater openness and acceptance of sexual orientation in the entertainment industry.

Contact: Andy Jones, Editor in Chief, *rough cut*, TNT, 1050 Techwood Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30318, fax: 404-885-0855

The Gray Lady visits New York's bourgeois gay bars

Examining the sociological reasons behind the development of a new aesthetic for the city's gay bars, an article in the February 1 edition of the *New York Times* raised several interesting issues facing New York gay men.

"A new generation of gay bars have all but jettisoned dark and dingy interior designs for cleaner, airier, more creative spaces," writer David Colman said. "[It] mirrors a broader change in attitude among patrons of gay bars: a self-confidence about being out, a rising economic prosperity and less fear of harassment by nonhomosexuals. Traditionally, gay bars have been windowless dives that cloaked patrons in anonymous darkness while protecting them from the scrutiny of passers-by."

The open, windowed new bars, Colman said, "illustrate that many gay men appear to be embracing some of the values and freedoms of mainstream society,

from which they have often been excluded. Although such bars still function as they always have — as pickup places — they are now also attractive meeting places for friends, where a gay man can bring a heterosexual acquaintance without fear of complaint and even where gay couples can go, undaunted by a heavy cruising scene."

He cautioned, "But the more wholesome-looking digs have not been universally embraced. The closing of [sex-oriented] back rooms has been attacked by Sex Panic, a vocal gay group that advocates sexual liberation, for representing a crackdown on the freedom of gay men. ... Others have groused that the newer bars — like the obsessions with muscles and clothing that symbolize the Chelsea gay scene — bespeak a growing complacency among some gay men about political issues."

Please commend the *New York Times* for this thought-provoking article about a community in transition.

Contact: Bill Keller, Managing Editor, *The New York Times*, 229 West 43rd St., New York, NY 10036, fax: 212-556-3690

The Maine event

The February 2 *Boston Globe* profiled Paul Fuller, a tireless advocate for Maine's new civil rights law which includes protections from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. "Walking the snowbound roads of Maine, promoting equal rights for gay men and lesbians, Paul Fuller has almost forgotten he is wearing a bulletproof vest," it began. "Fuller knows there are gay bashers out there. But midway through a 400-mile walk from Canada to Kittery to persuade voters to keep Maine's new law, he has trudged through one ice storm, at least one snowstorm and temperatures as low as 10 degrees below zero."

The *Globe* noted how supporters have far outweighed critics, and some locals have joined him for hours at a time on his walk.

"On Feb. 10, Mainers will decide in a statewide referendum whether to repeal the law," it added, quoting one radical religious leader pushing for the repeal. It ended with a quote from Fuller: "By being visible, we've made people aware," Fuller said. "It's a human rights issue."

Please commend the *Boston Globe* for showing the human side of Maine's struggle to preserve human rights for all.

Contact: Matthew V. Storin, Editor, *Boston Globe*, 135 Morrissey Boulevard, Dorchester, MA 02125-3338, fax: 617-929-3192, e-mail: letter@globe.com ▼

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Play time



Playwright David Henry Hwang of *M. Butterfly* fame helped inaugurate an Artist Alliance Against AIDS series of staged readings of plays and conversations with writers Feb. 7. After a reading of Hwang's *Bang Kok*, the playwright (right) was interviewed by Philip Kan Gotanda on stage at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts. For more information about the series, please call either (415) 882-5468 or (415) 554-0402.

OutWrite Conference takes place next week in Boston

by Liz Highleyman

The seventh annual OutWrite – the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Writers' Conference – will take place in Boston February 19-22.

This year's keynote speakers at Friday's opening plenary will be independent filmmaker Pratibha Parmar and playwright Craig Lucas. Parmar is a London-based filmmaker and critic whose work includes *Warrior Marks*, *Khush*, *A Place of Rage*, and her most recent film, *Wavelengths*. Parmar is also co-editor of *Queer Looks: Perspectives on Lesbian and Gay Film and Video*. Lucas's plays include *Prelude to a Kiss*, *Reckless*, and *God's Heart*, as well as the screenplay for *Longtime Companion*.

This year's Audre Lorde

Memorial Lecture will be given by local writer Jewelle Gomez, author of *The Gilda Stories*. Comedian Kate Clinton will host Friday's Visions and Voices Luncheon, and Peggy Shaw of the Split Britches performance troupe will perform at the closing plenary on Sunday. Other conference events include an evening reading, film screenings, a poetry slam, a people of color reception, and a dance.

The large array of confirmed panelists includes Christopher Bram, Michael Bronski, Kenny Fries, Judith Katz, Michael Lowenthal, Kevin Moss, Leslea Newman, Shar Rednour, Sarah Schulman, Urvashi Vaid, and Carmen Vazquez.

OutWrite is a project of the Bromfield Street Educational Foundation. Conference organiz-

ers expect some 1,500 people to attend this year's conference, which will be held at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and Towers. ▼

For OutWrite information and registration materials, call (617) 262-6969 or send e-mail to outwrite@bsef.terranel.com.

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Sonoma County meeting planned to discuss AEF cuts

by Ron Lazar

Because of budgetary considerations, the San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund has completely cut off funds to most of the counties it formerly served. In response to the change, a meeting will be held for affected Sonoma County residents next Wednesday, February 25 at 7:15 p.m. at the Sebastopol Community Center, on Morris Street off Route 12.

AEF honorary co-chair Jeff Getty, one of the organizers of the meeting, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the issue boils down to county residents' lack of financial support for the AEF. Unlike other counties that have raised money for AEF over the years, Sonoma has not contributed to the organization's coffers. "The purpose of the meeting is also to explain why AEF had to cut the money," he said, "and explore ways of restoring the assistance."

Loren Berthelson, president of the AEF board of directors, said the decision to eliminate funding to the affected counties is not a permanent situation. He predicted full funding will be restored "when county officials, AIDS ser-

vice organization members, or the general public help the AEF identify and secure funding equal to or greater than 65% of the client grants distributed to that county in 1997."

Berthelson observed that AEF receives federal Ryan White money to provide emergency financial assistance to people living in the San Francisco Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA), which includes Marin and San Mateo counties. Funding to Alameda County was maintained only because revenue to the AEF from Alameda County exceeded 65% of grants to clients in that county in 1997.

"Let me repeat that the decision was never intended to create a permanent situation," Berthelson said. "Nor was it an easy decision to make. We want nothing more than to restore full funding to all 10 Bay Area counties. But we had to take steps to address a critical revenue shortfall. In plain English that means that the AEF would have been forced to close the doors in mid-1998 if nothing was done."

Getty agreed. "We want to find solutions to the problem that Sonoma County can't come up with matching funds, and keep

the AIDS Emergency Fund going there," he told the B.A.R. "AEF particularly wants to hear from the community and find out what is more important to them, these cash grants — the \$450 AEF yearly cash grant — versus other services that they're getting. We are hoping that there's a way that we can do both the cash grants and full services and that they don't have to compete with each other."

Acknowledging that "there is no perfect solution," Berthelson said, "I challenge you to bring a solution to the table. Don't let this become a political issue because it's not about politics. It's about people trying to live day to day who now have one more hurdle to crawl over." ▼

For information and directions to the Sonoma County meeting, call (707) 451-3600. AEF board meetings take place the second Tuesday of each month and are open to the public. The March 10th board meeting will be in a Town Hall format at Charpe's, located at 131 Gough Street between Page and Oak, beginning at 7 p.m. Call (415) 558-6999 for future times and places.

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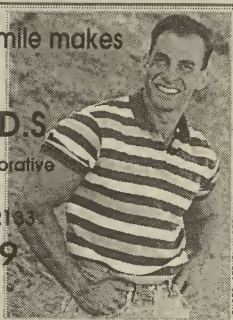
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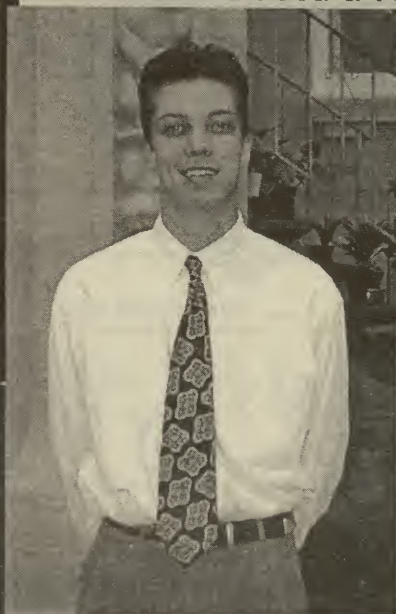
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Russian River

◀ page 1

would be required. Even so, Sonoma County Sheriffs prevented residents from entering the area, threatening arrests when they felt it appropriate. One deputy told the B.A.R. that six people had already been arrested, although that proved later to be false, according to the Guerneville substation.

Among the residents who were unable to get access to their homes was Paul Menconi, a community HIV prevention counselor with the AIDS organization Face to Face. A PWA who follows a protease inhibitor regimen, Menconi was denied access by the police to his home, where he kept his drugs. Fortunately, Menconi's nurse, who also happens to work for the county sheriff's office, was able to persuade law enforcement officials to escort Menconi into Rio Nido to get his medicine.

Around 10:30 p.m. Saturday, some of the roads into Rio Nido were re-opened. However, the

hillside on Canyon Three had moved another three feet by Sunday morning, and evacuation of the entire area was "strongly recommended" by the Office of Emergency Services.

According to information obtained from the Sonoma Operational Area Office of Emergency Services on Wednesday, February 11, geologists on the scene of the slide have found continued movement and deterioration of the slide mass, forcing the mandatory evacuation of 25 more homes, in addition to the 26 homes included in the original emergency evacuation order. National Guard units were patrolling the area and reporting trespassers to the Sheriff's Department for citation and the arrest of repeat violators and arrest repeat offenders.

By press time Wednesday, flooding had destroyed four homes and damaged 284; those damages are estimated at \$1.35 million, and the total damage to public and private property is estimated at \$2.1 million.

Further rains are expected. ▼

OJ gone bad?

◀ page 1

short of saying the orange juice would be pulled from distribution. In fact, she said she has tasted the product and found it "tasted like boxed orange juice." She noticed no unusual odor, and said the pallet of orange juice came in to Open Hand last week.

"We are so careful," Friedman said, adding that food items such as meat and dairy products — which are not so-called "shelf stable" products — are not distributed past the date on packages. She said agency staff call companies if there is a question about the quality of a product, and cited

a recent donation of taco sauce that was a week over the best use date, where Open Hand followed a company spokesperson's advice to discard it. Food companies will often suggest the agency throw food out rather than deal with potential litigation, she added.

"We've never had anybody report to us that anybody's gotten sick," said Friedman.

"Complaints about food have been traced back, and it has been found that people have not refrigerated the product or may not have a refrigerator," Friedman said.

The news comes just as the agency is preparing to honor its founder with a community pancake breakfast this Saturday. [See related story, page 4.] ▼

Gay Washington insider Bob Hattoy addresses BALIF

Law group's dinner focuses on 'Respect'

by Vicky Kolakowski

Openly gay White House official Bob Hattoy was the keynote speaker at the 18th annual dinner for Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF), held on Thursday, February 5.

The longtime environmentalist and present Clinton administration official with the Interior Department mixed one-liners and serious political commentary as he discussed being one of Washington's most prominent gay men. Hattoy reached national attention in 1992, when he was the first person with AIDS to address a major party's national convention. He has since served in the Clinton administration in roles related to environmental policy.

In his speech, he discussed the difficulties of living with AIDS six years after his famous speech. "When I was a dying diva, everyone was supportive," he said, noting that he has lived longer than he expected and that with his continued life and health comes less support and new problems. He describes himself now as an "ordinary guy with what is becoming an ordinary virus." Hattoy stressed that AIDS hasn't gone away and that PWAs face serious obstacles in the present health care climate.

"PWAs are as welcome in managed care as Jesse Helms at a women's music festival," Hattoy quipped.

Describing San Francisco as "the mothership," he called on the local gay and lesbian community to continue to support the gay

and lesbian community beyond the Bay. Referring to the dinner's theme of "Respect," Hattoy said that "what this movement is about is love and respect. This is a community of love, and we need to bring this to our politics."

Hattoy believes that gay and lesbian voters need to be more demanding of politicians in the future. "Next election we have to be tougher and really have an agenda," he said, adding that, despite the far right's statements to the contrary, there is no clearly defined gay and lesbian political

agenda.

He also said that more change in the public's attitudes will be necessary before lasting change is achieved, noting that "we've changed the White House, but not other houses in America."

The group's annual Community Service Award was given to Levi Strauss & Co., the first corporation to receive the award. BALIF's Legal Service Award was given to Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this spring. ▼



BALIF's Michael Weiss (left) and Laurie Simonson (right) chat with White House liaison Bob Hattoy at the group's Feb. 5 dinner.

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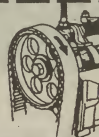
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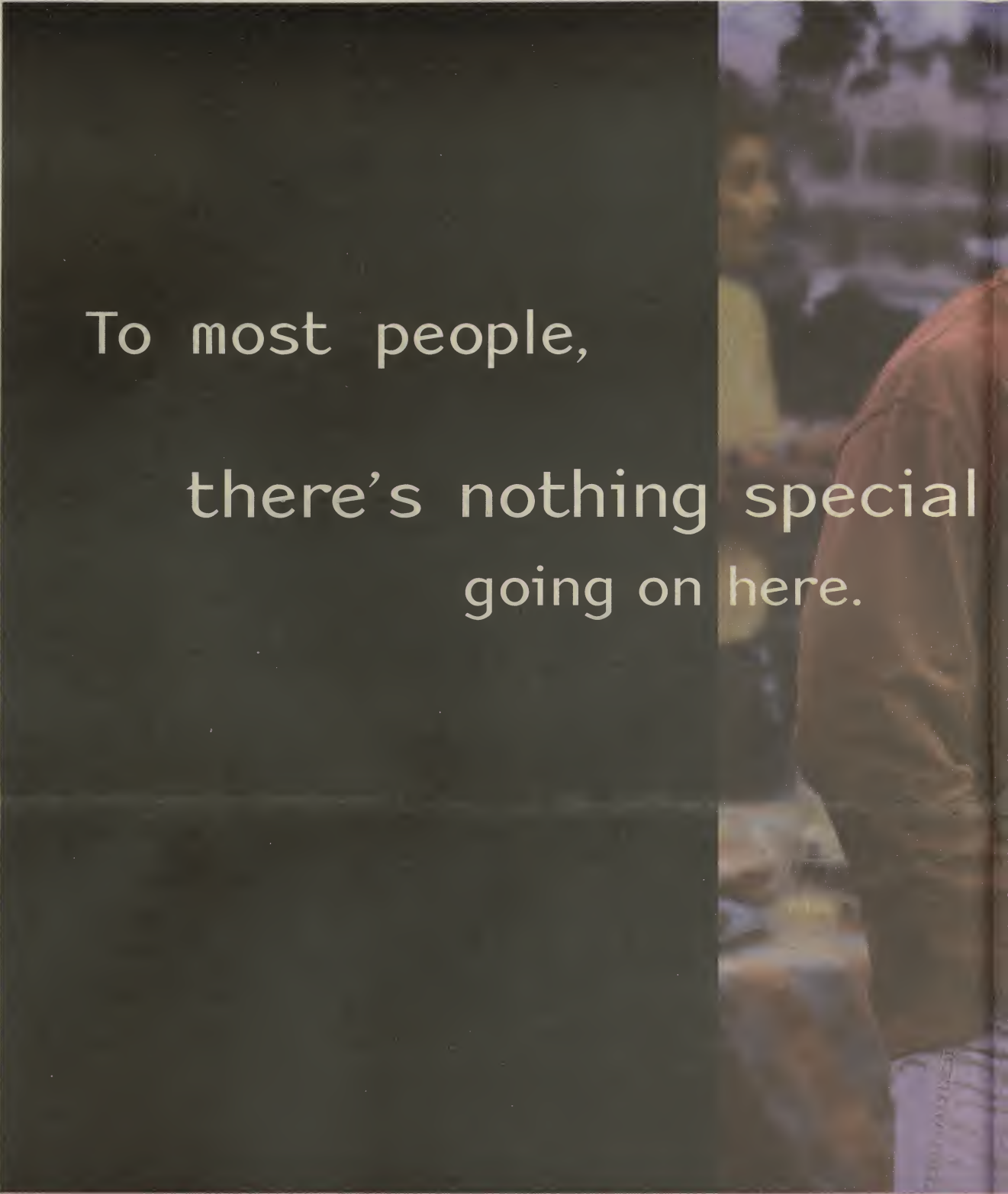


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Harman enters governor's race

by Wayne Friday

Claiming that she will bring "truly relevant experience" to the governor's office, Representative Jane Harman, a moderate three-term House member from Los Angeles, jumped into the Democratic race for governor last week.

Harmon vowed a "tough and rigorous" campaign against businessman Al Checchi and Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, her two party rivals for the nomination June 3rd. A self-described "Dianne Feinstein-type Democrat," the 52-year-old Harman told political reporters during a 20-minute telephone conference call last week that she decided on the race after Senator Feinstein decided against running for the governor's post.

An attorney and erstwhile legislative director to former U.S. Senator John Tunney, Harman first won election to her formerly

"safe Republican" Los Angeles area district in 1992, and has twice been re-elected.

"I had thought about becoming a [gubernatorial] candidate a bit," Harman said last week, "but frankly, I had planned to spend most of the coming year campaigning for my friend Dianne." She added that her own candidacy will "bring experience, an informed vision for the state, and a lifetime of commitment to principles, including the right to choose an abortion."

Several leading Democrats who are supposedly unimpressed with both Checchi and Davis had urged Harman to enter the fray after Feinstein decided against the race. One Sacramento Democratic party strategist predicted that with Harman's own personal financial resources, combined with past demonstration of fund-raising ability, she immediately becomes a "viable challenger" to those candidates. Another longtime party activist described her

this week as one of the few state politicians who is "financially viable."

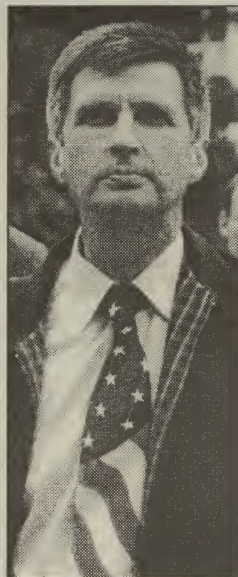
Harman's late entry might lead to some difficulty in getting known across the state, but she is a millionaire and is reportedly willing to spend a considerable amount of her family fortune on her campaign.

The congresswoman's entry into the Democratic field brings another element that was missing since Feinstein opted out: Harman will be the only woman candidate for governor, Democrat or Republican, in a state where female voters have often made the difference in recent elections. Indeed, some estimates show that as many as 58 percent of the state's registered voters are female, and in June's "open primary" Harman can be expected to draw heavily among pro-choice Republican women, who might not otherwise vote for a Democratic candidate.

This probability is heightened even more by the fact that Atter-

ney General Dan Lungren, the likely GOP nominee, is avidly anti-choice and has already turned off many pro-choice Republicans, men and women alike. In fact, a governor's aide in Sacramento was heard commenting that "this woman is a safe harbor for moderate Republicans; I think she will give Dan [Lungren] fits."

Harmon's political moderation, support of gay rights, and pro-choice stance make her an immediate beneficiary to much of the support that would have gone to Feinstein. While there was no comment from Feinstein's office on the Harman candidacy, the two are known to be good friends, and some were predicting that an expected Feinstein endorsement could give Harman's candidacy the boost it would need to move past her two male opponents and win the June primary. Bill Carrick, one of Feinstein's longtime political advisors, has already been hired by the Harman campaign as lead media consultant. ▼



Tony Miller

Tony Miller comes out for lieutenant governor

by Marge Covino

On Monday, February 2, openly gay former acting California secretary of state Tony Miller announced his candidacy for the office of lieutenant governor.

Miller is seeking to replace current Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis, who is running for governor. Miller, who occupied the secretary of state post after the resignation of March Fong Eu, ran for that office in 1994 and was defeated by the present secretary of state, Republican Bill Jones. At one time Miller said he would run for secretary of state again, but has since said he chose to run for lieutenant governor because it is a higher-profile office, in which he can accomplish more.

In 1996, Miller was a leader in the Proposition 208 campaign finance reform initiative, which voters approved but was recently struck down in federal court. Miller continues to attack big contributions to political campaigns, saying, "Big money doesn't just talk, it shouts, it overwhelms, and it corrupts." He has said his campaign will observe the initiative's spending limits and contributions.

Also seeking the Democratic Party nomination for lieutenant governor is outgoing Assembly Speaker Cruz Bustamante (D-Fresno). Bustamante has been aggressively raising money for his campaign, and while Miller praised Bustamante as "a good man trapped in a bad system," he criticized Bustamante's fundraising, saying, "He is indeed the poster child of the special interest domination of the political process."

Richie Ross, Bustamante's campaign manager, shot back that Miller was being sanctimonious because he is unable to raise large sums of money.

"He's trying to take necessity and turn it into a virtue," Ross said. ▼

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Treatment of Anemia in Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients

PROCRT is indicated for the treatment of anemia related to therapy with zidovudine in HIV-infected patients. PROCRT is indicated to elevate or maintain the red blood cell levels (as manifested by the hemoglobin or hematocrit) and to decrease the need for transfusions in these patients. PROCRT is not indicated for the treatment of anemia in HIV-infected patients due to other factors such as iron or folate deficiencies, hemolysis or gastrointestinal bleeding, which should be managed appropriately.

PROCRT at a dose of 100 Units/kg three times per week is effective in decreasing the transfusion requirements and increasing the red blood cell level of anemic, HIV-infected patients treated with zidovudine, when the endogenous serum level of erythropoietin is ≤ 500 mUnits/mL, and when patients are receiving a dose of zidovudine $\leq 4,200$ mg/week.

Responsiveness to PROCRT therapy may be blunted by concurrent infectious/inflammatory episodes and by an increase in zidovudine dosage. Consequently, the dose of PROCRT must be titrated based on these factors to maintain the desired erythropoietic response.

Treatment of Anemia in Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy

PROCRT is indicated for the treatment of anemia in patients with non-myeloid malignancies where anemia is due to the effect of concomitantly administered chemotherapy. PROCRT is indicated to decrease the need for transfusions in patients who will be receiving concomitant chemotherapy for a minimum of 2 months. PROCRT is not indicated for the treatment of anemia in cancer patients due to other factors such as iron or folate deficiencies, hemolysis or gastrointestinal bleeding which should be managed appropriately.

Available evidence suggests that patients with myeloid and solid cancers respond equivalently to PROCRT therapy, and that patients with or without tumor infiltration of the bone marrow respond equivalently to PROCRT therapy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

PROCRT is contraindicated in patients with:

- 1) Uncontrolled hypertension.
- 2) Known hypersensitivity to mammalian cell-derived proteins.
- 3) Known hypersensitivity to Albumin (Human).

WARNINGS

Pediatric Use:

The multidosed preserved formulation contains benzyl alcohol. Benzyl alcohol has been reported to be associated with an increased incidence of neurological and other complications in premature infants which are sometimes fatal. The safety and effectiveness of EPOetin alfa in children have not been established.

Thrombotic Events and Increased Mortality:

In a randomized, prospective trial of 1265 hemodialysis patients with clinically evident cardiac disease (ischemic heart disease or congestive heart failure), an increased mortality was observed in those patients randomized to a target hematocrit of 42% as compared to those patients targeted to remain at a hematocrit of 30%. The reason for increased mortality observed in these studies is unknown; however, the incidence of non-fatal myocardial infarction (3.1% vs. 2.3%), vascular access thrombosis (39% vs. 29%), and all other thrombotic events (22% vs. 18%) were also higher in the group randomized to achieve a hematocrit of 42%. Increased mortality was observed in a randomized placebo-controlled study of PROCRT in patients who did not have chronic renal failure who were undergoing coronary artery bypass surgery (7 deaths in 126 patients randomized to PROCRT vs. no deaths among 56 patients receiving placebo). Four of these deaths occurred during the period of study drug administration and all four deaths were associated with thrombotic events. While the extent of the population affected is unknown, in patients at risk for thrombotic events, the anticipated benefits of PROCRT treatment should be weighed against the potential for increased risks associated with therapy.

Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients

PROCRT therapy has not been linked to exacerbation of hypertension, seizures, and thrombotic events in HIV-infected patients.

PRECAUTIONS

The parental administration of any biologic product should be attended by appropriate precautions in case allergic or other untoward reactions occur (see "CONTRAINDICATIONS"). In clinical trials, while transient

rashes were occasionally observed concurrently with PROCRT therapy, no serious allergic or anaphylactic reactions were reported. See "ADVERSE REACTIONS" for more information regarding allergic reactions.

The safety and efficacy of PROCRT therapy have not been established in patients with a known history of a seizure disorder or underlying hematologic disease (e.g., sickle cell anemia, myelodysplastic syndromes, or hypercoagulable disorders).

In some female patients, menses have resumed following PROCRT therapy; the possibility of pregnancy should be discussed and the need for contraception evaluated.

Hematology: Exacerbation of porphyria has been observed rarely in patients with CRF treated with PROCRT. Nevertheless, PROCRT should be used with caution in patients with known porphyria.

In preclinical studies in dogs and rats, but not in monkeys, PROCRT therapy was associated with sub-clinical bone marrow fibrosis. Bone marrow fibrosis is a known complication of CRF in humans and may be related to secondary hyperparathyroidism or unknown factors.

In zidovudine-treated HIV-infected and cancer patients, hematocrit should be measured once a week until stabilized and periodically thereafter.

Delayed or Ominous Response: If the patient fails to respond or to maintain a response to doses within the recommended dosing range, the following etiologies should be considered and evaluated.

- 1) Iron deficiency. Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron therapy (see "Iron Evaluation").
- 2) Underlying infectious, inflammatory, or malignant processes.
- 3) Occult blood loss.
- 4) Underlying hematologic diseases (i.e., thalassemia refractory anemia, or other myelodysplastic disorder).
- 5) Vitamin deficiencies: folic acid or vitamin B12.
- 6) Hemolysis.
- 7) Aluminum intoxication.
- 8) Osteitis fibrosa cystica.

Iron Evaluation: During PROCRT therapy, absolute functional iron deficiency may develop. Functional iron deficiency, with normal ferritin levels but low transferrin saturation, is presumably due to the inability to mobilize iron stores rapidly enough to support increased erythropoiesis. Transferrin saturation should be at least 20% and ferritin should be at least 100 ng/mL.

Prior to and during PROCRT therapy, the patient's iron status, including transferrin saturation (serum iron divided by iron binding capacity) and serum ferritin, should be evaluated. Virtually all patients will eventually require supplemental iron to increase or maintain transferrin saturation to levels which will adequately support erythropoiesis stimulated by PROCRT.

Drug Interactions: No evidence of interaction of PROCRT with other drugs was observed in the course of clinical trials.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: Carcinogenic potential of PROCRT has not been evaluated. PROCRT does not induce bacterial gene mutation (Ames Test), chromosomal aberrations in mammalian cells, micronuclei in mice, or gene mutation at the HGPRT locus. In female rats treated intravenously with PROCRT, there was a trend for slightly increased fetal wastage at doses of 100 and 500 Units/kg.

Pregnancy Category C: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. PROCRT should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. In studies in female rats, there were decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, delayed epigenesis, delayed ossification, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 Units/kg group. In female rats treated intravenously, there was a trend for slightly increased fetal wastage at doses of 100 and 500 Units/kg. There were no known adverse effects at doses as high as 500 Units/kg in pregnant rats (from day 6 to 18 of gestation).

Nursing mothers: Postnatal observations of the live offspring (F1 generation) of female rats treated with PROCRT during gestation and lactation revealed no effect of PROCRT at doses of up to 500 Units/kg. There were, however, decreases in body weight gain, delays in appearance of abdominal hair, eyelid opening, and decreases in the number of caudal vertebrae in the F1 fetuses of the 500 Units/kg group. There were no effects related to PROCRT on the F2 generation fetuses.

It is not known whether PROCRT is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when PROCRT is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: The safety and effectiveness of

PROCRT in children have not been established (see "WARNINGS").

Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients:

Hypertension: Exacerbation of hypertension has not been observed in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients treated with PROCRT. However, PROCRT should be withheld in these patients if pre-existing hypertension is uncontrolled, and should not be started until blood pressure is controlled. In double-blind studies, a single seizure has been experienced by a patient treated with PROCRT.

Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy

Hypertension: Hypertension, associated with a significant increase in hematocrit, has been noted rarely in cancer patients treated with PROCRT. Nevertheless, blood pressure in patients treated with PROCRT should be monitored carefully, particularly in patients with an underlying history of hypertension or cardiovascular disease.

Seizures: In double-blind, placebo-controlled trials, 3.2% of patients treated with PROCRT and 2.9% of patients treated with PROCRT occurred in the context of a significant increase in blood pressure and hematocrit baseline values. However, both patient groups treated with PROCRT also had underlying CNS pathology which may have been related to seizure activity.

Thrombotic events: In double-blind, placebo-controlled trials, 3.2% of patients treated with PROCRT and 11.8% of placebo-treated patients had thrombotic events (e.g., pulmonary embolism, cerebrovascular accident). Growth Factor Potential: PROCRT is a growth factor that primarily stimulates red blood cell production. However, the possibility that PROCRT can act as a growth factor for any tumor type, particularly myeloid malignancies, cannot be excluded.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Zidovudine-Treated HIV-Infected Patients

Adverse events reported in clinical trials with PROCRT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients were consistent with the progression of HIV infection in double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of three months duration involving approximately 300 zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients; adverse events with an incidence of $>10\%$ in either patients treated with PROCRT or placebo-treated patients were:

Percent of Patients Reporting Event

Event	Patients Treated with PROCRT (N=144)	Placebo-Treated Patients (N=153)
Pyrexia	28%	29%
Fatigue	35%	31%
Headache	19%	14%
Cough	18%	14%
Diarrhea	16%	18%
Rash	16%	8%
Congestion, Respiratory	10%	15%
Nausea	15%	12%
Shortness of Breath	14%	13%
Asthenia	11%	14%
Skin Reaction	10%	7%
(Administration Site)		
Dizziness	9%	10%

There were no statistically significant differences between treatment groups in the incidence of the above events.

In the 297 patients studied, PROCRT was not associated with significant increases in opportunistic infections or mortality. In 71 patients from this group treated with PROCRT at 150 Units/kg (T1W), serum p24 antigen levels did not appear to increase. Preliminary data showed no enhancement of HIV replication in infected cell lines in vitro.

Peripheral white blood cell and platelet counts are unchanged following PROCRT therapy.

Allergic Reactions: Two zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients had urticarial reactions within 48 hours of their first exposure to study medication. One patient was treated with PROCRT and one was treated with placebo (PROCRT vehicle alone). Both patients had positive immediate skin tests against their study medication with a negative saline control. The basis for this apparent preexisting hypersensitivity to components of the PROCRT formulation is unknown, but may be related to HIV-induced immunosuppression or prior exposure to blood products.

Seizures: In double-blind and open-label trials of PROCRT in zidovudine-treated HIV-infected patients, ten patients have experienced seizures. In general, these seizures appear to be related to underlying pathology such as meningitis or cerebral neoplasms, not PROCRT therapy.

Cancer Patients on Chemotherapy

Adverse experiences reported in clinical trials with PROCRT in cancer patients were consistent with the underlying disease state. In double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of up to 3-months duration involving 131 cancer patients, adverse events with an incidence $>10\%$ in either patients treated with PROCRT or placebo-treated patients were as indicated below:

Percent of Patients Reporting Event

Event	Patients Treated with PROCRT (N=63)	Placebo-Treated Patients (N=68)
Pyrexia	29%	19%
Diarrhea	21%*	7%
Nausea	17%*	32%
Vomiting	17%	15%
Edema	17%*	1%
Asthenia	13%	16%
Fatigue	13%	15%
Shortness of Breath	13%	9%
Paresthesia	11%	6%
Upper Respiratory Infection	11%	4%
Dizziness	9%	12%
Trunk Pain	3%*	16%

a p=0.041 b p=0.069 c p=0.0016 d p=0.017

Although some statistically significant differences between patients treated with PROCRT and placebo-treated patients were noted, the overall safety profile of PROCRT appeared to be consistent with the disease process of advanced cancer. During double-blind and subsequent open-label therapy in which patients (N=72) were treated for up to 32 weeks with doses as high as 927 Units/kg, the adverse experience profile of PROCRT was consistent with the progression of advanced cancer.

Based on comparable survival data and on the percentage of patients treated with PROCRT and placebo-treated patients who discontinued therapy due to death, disease progression or adverse experiences (22% and 13%, respectively, p=0.25), the clinical outcome in patients treated with PROCRT and placebo-treated patients appeared to be similar. Available data from animal tumor models and measurement of proliferation of solid tumor cells from clinical biopsy specimens in response to PROCRT does not potentially support tumor growth. Nevertheless, as a growth factor, the possibility that PROCRT may potentiate growth of some tumors, particularly myeloid tumors, cannot be excluded.

The mean peripheral white blood cell count was unchanged following PROCRT therapy compared to the corresponding value in the placebo-treated group.

OVERDOSAGE

The maximum amount of PROCRT that can be safely administered in single or multiple doses has not been determined. Doses of up to 1,500 Units/kg (T1W) for three to four weeks have been administered without any direct toxic effects of PROCRT itself. Therapy with PROCRT can result in polythemia if the hematocrit is not carefully monitored and the dose appropriately adjusted. If the suggested target range is exceeded, PROCRT may be temporarily withheld until the hematocrit returns to the suggested target range. PROCRT therapy may then be resumed using a lower dose (see "DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION"). If polythemia is of concern, phlebotomy may be indicated to decrease the hematocrit.

PROCRT®
EPOETIN ALFA

Manufactured by:
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Good Knight, Nellie

by Marghe Covino
B.A.R. Capitol
Correspondent

Republican State Senator William J. (Pete) Knight of Palmdale has joined the battle against gay marriage and domestic partner benefits on two fronts.

First, Knight has introduced an anti-gay marriage ballot initiative, which seems unlikely to qualify for the November 1998 ballot. According to Knight's legislative aide, Andy Pugno, the initiative was introduced by Knight as a private citizen and therefore he couldn't discuss it. However, Laurie McBride, Executive Director of LIFE Lobby, who calls Knight "a one-man bigotry machine," says Knight has told her that this is one of the most important issues of the day and that he wants all California legislators to know he is willing to do anything to press the point that gays should not be allowed to destroy the institution of marriage.

The proposed initiative must receive a Title and Summary from the Attorney General's office before proponents can begin collecting signatures. Attorney General Dan Lungren's office is expected to supply that Title and Summary by March 13th. From that day, Knight and the other proponents of the initiative have 150 days to collect 433,269 valid

signatures. However, in order to qualify for the November ballot those signature have to be turned in by April 17th, so that the Secretary of State will have 60 days to validate those signatures.

McBride feels it is unlikely that Knight can reasonably expect to collect that many signatures in one month. However, if the initiative effort is carried forward it would most likely be ready for the election in the year 2000.

Last week Knight also launched SB 1484, which would prohibit the University of California and Cali-

matter of accountability."

Ignoring the fact that several of Knight's anti-gay marriage bills have been launched and failed in the legislature, Pugno said that "bill after bill has been introduced giving same-sex partners the right to medical benefits and they have failed to gain support of even the Democrats in the legislature."

Willis Bennett, former President of the Lambda Community Center and Sysop for Acropolis BBS in Sacramento, said, "These people act like we aren't citizens or taxpayers. They are making

"They are making marriage a 'special right' for special people."

fornia State University systems from offering domestic partners benefits to employees. Pugno told the *Bay Area Reporter* that "the Board of Regents is not an elected body and they are spending taxpayer dollars to give benefits to same-sex and unmarried heterosexual couples." Pugno further stated, "Same-sex and unmarried heterosexual relationships are not recognized as being equally valuable as married relationships."

He added that "the Board of Regents are violating state policy, which is the law of the state when they try to circumvent that policy. They are not elected and this is a

marriage a "special right" for special people — heterosexuals only — anyone else need not apply."

Pugno seemed to disagree, saying, "The same rule applies to heterosexual unmarried couples. You can't have the Board of Regents approve using married student housing for an unmarried boy and girl who just want to live together. It's ridiculous for them [gays] to get hysterical and act like they're under attack — just because the legislature will not give them special treatment."

It will be about 30 days before SB1484 is assigned to committee to begin the hearing process. ▼

Migden aide alleges assault by irate Rep.

by Marghe Covino

In an unprecedented move, a staff member of Assemblymember Carole Migden has filed a complaint with the Assembly Rules Committee, alleging he was assaulted by Assemblymember Roderic Wright, D-Los Angeles.

Geoff Long, a 15-year member of the Assembly staff, is chief consultant to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, which Migden chairs. On January 28th, Migden asked Long to go out into the hall to speak with Wright, who was upset that his bill didn't pass out of the committee. According to witnesses, Wright screamed at Long as he approached, "You screwed me. You fucked me." Wright then allegedly said, "Shut your fucking mouth or I'm going to break your fucking jaw — and

I can too."

Long alleges that when he tried to placate Wright, the legislator pinned him against the wall and continued the verbal threats.

In fact, an analysis of Wright's gun bill was done by Dan Reeves, Migden's chief of staff, who is also the Assembly expert on gun legislation. According to insiders, Reeves and Long held several meetings with Wright and members of his staff to keep them informed about the analysis of the bill and to recommend amendments.

"All of a sudden Wright's screaming that he's been ambushed, like everything that's being brought up in the hearing is news to him," a capital insider told the *B.A.R.* "Geoff Long is one of the most professional and most respected staff people here. He's been here for 15 years and if he walks, the whole budgetary repos-

itory memory goes with him.

"Let's face it: the guy could file criminal charges if he wanted to, but all he's asking for is a formal apology and for Wright to acknowledge that it happened, and he wants Wright to take some training in anger management. This is not an isolated incident, it's happened before and there has to be some intervention with Wright, because the next time he just might hurt someone."

Another staff member who witnessed the incident has also submitted a letter to Assembly Rules. Reportedly, the Democratic caucus will investigate the incident. Migden is supportive of Long and is very clear about her feelings that "staff people shouldn't have to put up with that kind of thing and they shouldn't ever be subjected to that kind of mistreatment." ▼

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Keith Boykin: In transition

by Bob Roehr

It's time in my life to move on," says Keith Boykin. "When I left my job [in the press office] at the White House, in January 1995, I was committed to doing some writing. I did that for about eight months. I really want to get back to that." Those eight months resulted in *One More River to Cross: Black & Gay in America*, a well-received book now out in paperback.

But at the urging of his mentor Phill Wilson, he put aside

those personal desires to serve the community as executive director of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. Over the last two and a half years, he has guided its transition from a Los Angeles-based group that staged a national conference into a full-fledged national organization.

He disappointed many last fall when he decided not to renew his two-year contract. But he did agree to stay on for an orderly transition, through the group's annual conference in February. Now, with but a few weeks re-

maining, he is busy with the final details of that meeting.

The things that Boykin is most proud of during his tenure are perhaps the ones least visible to folks on the outside. It's the stuff of organization building. The board of directors is stronger, more national in character, and the roles of staff and volunteers have been clearly defined. A decade of red ink has disappeared, and, he beams, "We have been able to raise a significant amount of money for the first time."

And there is heightened public visibility through Boykin's challenging the homophobia of the Winans sisters on BET and in the media, participation in the Million Man March, and travel to Zimbabwe as part of the American delegation. He believes that "over the years, we have become less of an afterthought and more of an included part of the black community."

The challenges

But there are frustrations as well, one of which Boykin calls faith. "Not just spiritual faith, but faith in oneself," he says, "faith in your community. One of the biggest obstacles has been to try to instill a sense of faith in individuals who have been taught for so long that they had no reason to have faith in themselves and their institutions. Particularly in the African-American community."

"Sometimes," he continued, "we have a tendency to first say it is not possible," simply because something has not been done be-

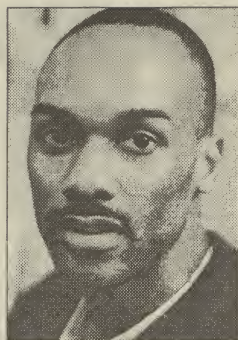
fore. "Sometimes I wish I weren't so much of an optimist, because I don't always achieve the things I set out to do. But sometimes I also wish I could take my faith and optimism and somehow pass it on to other people, so that they can believe in things that we want to do."

Getting people to come out of the closet is the greatest challenge, he says, "because whatever we do is dependent upon that. It's fine for people who are not out to make contributions anonymously, but in the end we are really creating a sense of empowerment. It's not just the money but actually a sense of visibility, a presence, a sense of being proud of who we are."

Boykin sees the churches "who regularly spew out homophobia from the pulpits" as "one of the biggest reasons why people don't come out in the black community, because they have been condemned, told that they are wrong and immoral." And he laments that "we are not doing anywhere near enough, in this community or any other community, to challenge that."

He is very troubled by HIV and AIDS. The crisis is not over. While mortality rates are declining for every other population group, they are not declining for African-Americans. And of the 30 million people estimated to be infected worldwide, two-thirds of those are in sub-Saharan Africa.

"The black community, including the black leadership, has completely walked away from this issue. It is almost as if black people don't realize that black people



Keith Boykin

are the primary victims of HIV and AIDS, the people who are most likely to die. Not just among gay men, but among practically all of the segments of the population.

"And where is [NAACP leader] Kweisi Mfume on these things? Where is [U.S. Representative] Maxine Waters? Where is Jesse Jackson? Where is the black leadership on a critical issue for black people, not only here in America but throughout the Diaspora and in Africa as well?" He fears that they see it "as being a black gay community problem, and not for all black people."

The future

Boykin is leaving the Leadership Forum to return to writing and lecturing. He "wants to talk about ideas" unencumbered by having to stop and think about the needs of an organization. He wants to branch out beyond gay and lesbian themes into broader topics. He expects that most of his

page 23 ▶

Engines to rev, awards to give at Black Leadership Forum this week

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, to be held over the February 12-15 weekend, has grown to more than 1,000 participants in recent years. Keith Boykin describes it as "an excellent opportunity for networking, for learning and growth, for spirituality and bonding, and for people to get their engines charged up again for the year."

This is the first time that Leadership Forum members will vote for recipients of recognition awards. Forty-seven men and women have been nominated in seven individual categories, and ballots have been mailed out. Awards will be presented at the conference banquet.

The forum will be held at the Crystal City Hyatt in Arlington, Virginia, three subway stops across the Potomac from Washington, DC. ▼

— Bob Roehr

Complete information is available on the '98 Conference page at the Forum's web site, www.nblglf.org, or by contacting coordinator Kenyatta Graves at (202) 483-6786.

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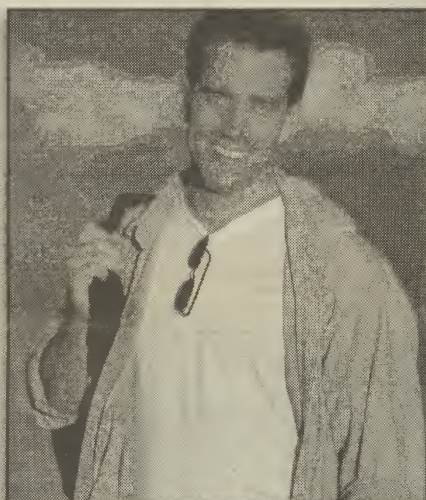
SEROSTIM *combats the loss of lean body mass in ways other treatments don't.**

SEROSTIM is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia, in combination with antiviral therapy, based on analysis of intermediate effects in studies up to 12 weeks duration.

You may know that wasting robs a person of lean muscle and organ mass, and physical performance. But did you know that it can strike anyone with HIV? At any time? Even while your weight remains constant? That's because you could be adding fat to your body while still losing lean body mass (LBM).

If you are experiencing wasting, discuss with your doctor whether SEROSTIM—human growth hormone—might be right for you.

SEROSTIM rebuilds LBM and improves physical performance while reducing body fat. Studies show that without the LBM you need, you could become weaker, get sick more often and may not live as long as people who are not losing lean body mass; although the clinical significance of treatment-induced weight gain and increasing LBM have not been established. Physical performance was assessed by treadmill exercise testing. Grip strength, another measure of muscle performance may decline, probably due to increased tissue fullness, which sometimes occurs with growth hormone. Subjective assessment of performance was measured in a nine-point questionnaire. SEROSTIM showed significant improvements on two points—change in appearance and overall benefit of therapy—while results of the other measures were inconclusive. Patients who continue to lose weight in their first two weeks of therapy should be reevaluated.



SEROSTIM isn't a steroid, an appetite stimulant or nutritional supplement. It's a completely new anabolic (LBM building) and anticatabolic (inhibits LBM breakdown) treatment that increases LBM and improves physical performance by interacting with a variety of cell types.

One way to know for sure if your treatment has restored LBM is to ask your doctor about BIA or Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis. BIA measures body composition so changes in LBM can be monitored. It takes just 5 minutes and is completely painless. If your physician cannot provide

BIA testing, ask him/her to call Serono at 800-714-2437 and a representative will help your physician gain access to a BIA system on your behalf.

People on SEROSTIM may observe side effects. In clinical trials, patients treated with SEROSTIM noticed muscle and joint soreness (53.7% vs. 33.3% for placebo) and swelling in the hands and feet (27.3% vs. 2.7% for placebo). Physicians rated these symptoms as mild-to-moderate, and in most cases they will subside with continued treatment. Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. SEROSTIM use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Also, SEROSTIM must be used along with anti-HIV drug therapy. Data related to interactions between SEROSTIM and anti-HIV treatments are not yet available.

Wasting is treatable. See your doctor or call the SEROSTIM Access Line at 800-714-2437 to find out about SEROSTIM's solution. ■



*Serostim is an anabolic and anticatabolic agent that works by interacting with specific receptors on a variety of cell types. For additional information about Serostim, please refer to the brief summary on the next page.

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BRIEF SUMMARY. SEE FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION BEFORE PRESCRIBING.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: Serostim® [somatotropin (rDNA origin) for injection] is indicated for the treatment of AIDS wasting or cachexia. This indication is based on analyses of surrogate endpoints in studies of up to 12 weeks in duration. Concomitant anti-viral therapy is necessary (see PRECAUTIONS: General). The continued use of Serostim treatment should be reevaluated in patients who continue to lose weight in the first two weeks of treatment.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Serostim is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to growth hormone.

PRECAUTIONS: General: Serostim therapy should be carried out under the regular guidance of a physician who is experienced in the diagnosis and management of AIDS. Inadequate nutritional intake, malabsorption and hypogonadism, which are common in individuals with AIDS and which may contribute to catabolism and weight loss, should also be monitored and treated.

HIV and Growth Hormone Considerations: In some experimental systems, recombinant human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been shown to potentiate HIV replication in vitro at concentrations ranging from 50-250 ng/ml. There was no increase in virus production when the antiretroviral agents, zidovudine, didanosine or lamivudine were added to the culture medium. Additional in vitro studies have shown that r-hGH does not interfere with the antiviral activity of zalcitabine or stavudine. In the controlled clinical trials, no significant growth hormone-associated increase in viral burden was observed. However, the protocol required all participants to be on concomitant nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of the study. In view of the potential for acceleration of virus replication, it is recommended that HIV+ patients be maintained on nucleoside analogue therapy for the duration of Serostim treatment.

Increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly in the hands and feet) and musculoskeletal discomfort (pain, swelling and/or stiffness) may occur during treatment with Serostim, but may resolve spontaneously, with analgesic therapy, or after reducing the frequency of dosing (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Carpal tunnel syndrome may occur during treatment with Serostim. If the symptoms of carpal tunnel syndrome do not resolve by decreasing the weekly number of doses of Serostim, it is recommended that treatment be discontinued.

Patients should be informed that allergic reactions are possible and that prompt medical attention should be sought if an allergic reaction occurs. None of the 188 study participants with AIDS wasting who were evaluable for antibody assessments and who were treated with Serostim for the first time developed detectable antibodies to growth hormone (> 4 pg binding). Patients were not rechallenged.

Recombinant Human Growth Hormone (r-hGH) has been associated with acute pancreatitis.

Hyperglycemia may occur in HIV-infected individuals due to a variety of reasons. Serostim use was associated with a minimal increase of mean blood glucose concentration. Patients with other risk factors for glucose intolerance should be monitored closely during Serostim therapy.

No cases of intracranial hypertension (IH) have been observed among patients with AIDS wasting treated with Serostim. The syndrome of IH, with papilledema, visual changes, headache, and nausea and/or vomiting has been reported in a small number of children with growth failure treated with growth hormone products. Nevertheless, fundoscopic evaluation of patients is recommended at the initiation and periodically during the course of Serostim therapy.

Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, and other malignancies are common in HIV+ individuals. There was no increase in the incidence of Kaposi's sarcoma, lymphoma, or in the progression of cutaneous Kaposi's sarcoma in clinical studies of Serostim. Patients with internal KS lesions were excluded from the studies. Potential effects on other malignancies are unknown.

Information For Patients: Patients being treated with Serostim should be informed of the potential benefits and risks associated with treatment. Patients should be instructed to contact their physician should they experience any side effects or discomfort during treatment with Serostim. It is recommended that Serostim be administered using sterile, disposable syringes and needles. Patients should be thoroughly instructed in the importance of proper disposal and cautioned against any reuse of needles and syringes. An appropriate container for the disposal of used syringes and needles should be employed. Patients should be instructed to rotate injection sites to avoid lipodystrophy.

Drug Interactions: Formal in vitro drug interaction studies have not been conducted. No data are available on drug interactions between Serostim and HIV protease inhibitors or the non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: Long-term animal studies for carcinogenicity have not been performed with Serostim. There is no evidence from animal studies to date of Serostim-induced mutagenicity or impairment of fertility.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category B. Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits. Doses up to 5 to 10 times the human dose, based on body surface area, have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to Serostim. There are, however, no adequate and well controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Women: It is not known whether Serostim is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when Serostim is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients with AIDS have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: In two placebo-controlled clinical trials in which 205 patients were treated with Serostim the most common adverse reactions judged to be associated with Serostim were musculoskeletal discomfort and increased tissue turgor (swelling, particularly of the hands and feet) (see PRECAUTIONS: General). These symptoms were generally rated by investigators as mild to moderate in severity and usually subsided with continued treatment. Discontinuations as a result of these events were rare.

Table 1: Controlled Trials Adverse Events

Adverse Event	Serostim (n=205)		Placebo (n=150)	
	%		%	
Musculoskeletal discomfort	53.7		33.3	
Fever	31.2		29.3	
Increased tissue turgor	27.3		2.7	
Diarrhea	25.9		20.0	
Neuropathy	25.9		17.3	
Nausea	25.9		16.0	
Headache	19.0		20.7	
Abdominal pain	17.1		18.7	
Fatigue	17.1		16.0	
Leukopenia	15.1		24.7	
Albuminuria	15.1		9.3	
Granulocytopenia	14.1		21.3	
Lymphadenopathy	14.1		16.0	
Increased sweating	14.1		8.7	
Anorexia	12.2		9.3	
Anemia	12.2		8.7	
Vomiting	11.7		12.0	
SGOT increased	11.7		6.0	
Insomnia	11.2		9.3	
Tachycardia	11.2		6.0	
Hyperglycemia	10.2		6.0	
SGPT increased	10.2		5.3	

Because of the diverse clinical manifestations of AIDS, and the frequent occurrence of adverse events associated with underlying disease process, it was often difficult to distinguish adverse events possibly associated with the administration of Serostim from underlying signs or symptoms of AIDS or associated intercurrent illnesses.

Clinical adverse events which occurred during the first 12 weeks of study in at least 10% of those who received Serostim during the two placebo-controlled trials are listed below by treatment group, without regard to causality assessment.

Adverse events that occurred in 1% to less than 10% of study participants receiving Serostim in the two placebo-controlled clinical efficacy studies are listed below by body system. The list of adverse events has been compiled regardless of causal relationship to Serostim.

Body as a Whole: rigors, flu-like symptoms, back pain, malaise, asthenia, carpal tunnel syndrome (see PRECAUTIONS: General), chest pain, hot flashes, allergic reaction. **Gastrointestinal System:** oral leukoplakia, flatulence, dyspepsia, dry mouth, constipation, ulcerative stomatitis, increased amylase, dysphagia, esophagitis, colitis, pancreatitis, rectal disorder, gastritis, tongue ulceration, gingivitis. **Musculoskeletal System:** muscle weakness. **Central and Peripheral Nervous System:** dizziness, convulsions, hypertonia, neuralgia, tremor, encephalopathy, nystagmus, meningitis. **Respiratory System:** dyspnea, coughing, sinusitis, upper respiratory tract infection, pharyngitis, rhinitis, pneumonia, bronchitis, increased sputum, respiratory disorder, bronchospasm, pneumonitis, pleurisy. **White Blood Cell and Hematopoietic System Disorders:** cervical lymphadenopathy, eosinophilia. **Skin and Appendages:** skin disorder, folliculitis, rash, alopecia, photosensitivity reaction, erythematous rash, pruritus, abnormal pigmentation, seborrhea, dermatitis, skin ulceration, acne, skin discoloration, verruca. **Psychiatric:** depression, anxiety, somnolence, nervousness, appetite increased, amnesia, abnormal thinking. **Metabolic and Nutritional:** hypertriglyceridemia, increased alkaline phosphatase, dehydration, increased creatinine phosphokinase, increased LDH, glycosuria, hypokalemia, cachexia, thirst, acidosis. **Immune System Dysfunction:** moniliasis, bacterial infection, Pneumocystis carinii infection, viral infection, infection, Herpes simplex, sepsis, abscess, fungal infection, Herpes zoster. **Urinary System:** hematuria, urinary tract infection, nocturia. **Liver and Biliary System:** abnormal hepatic function, hepatomegaly, hepatitis. **Vision:** retinitis, abnormal vision, photophobia. **Platelet, Bleeding and Clotting:** thrombocytopenia, purpura. **Cardiovascular, General:** abnormal ECG, heart murmur, hypertension, hypotension. **Application Site:** injection site pain, injection site reaction. **Neoplasms:** Kaposi's sarcoma. **Male Reproductive:** epididymitis, penis disorder, inguinal hernia. **Hearing and Vestibular:** earache, ear disorder, decreasing hearing. **Endocrine:** gynecomastia, male breast pain.

The types and incidences of adverse events reported in an open-label, extension trial and in a single, foreign trial, for up to one year, were not different from, or greater in frequency, than those observed in the primary, placebo-controlled, clinical trials.

OVERDOSAGE

Glucose intolerance can occur with overdosage. Long-term overdosage with growth hormone could result in signs and symptoms of acromegaly.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Serostim® [somatotropin (rDNA origin) for injection] should be administered subcutaneously daily at bedtime according to the following dosage recommendations:

Weight Range	Dose*
>55 kg	6 mg SC daily
45-55 kg	5 mg SC daily
35-45 kg	4 mg SC daily

*Based on an approximate daily dosage of 0.1 mg/kg

In patients who weigh less than 35 kg, Serostim should be administered at a dose of 0.1 mg/kg subcutaneously daily at bedtime. Dose reductions for side effects felt to be related to treatment with Serostim, which are unresponsive to symptomatic treatment, may be effected by reducing the total daily dose or the number of doses given per week.

In patients who continue to lose weight at week 2, reevaluate for concurrent opportunistic infections or other clinical events. Injection sites should be rotated.

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients with AIDS have not been established.

Each vial of Serostim 5 mg or 6 mg is reconstituted with 1 mL sterile water for injection. To reconstitute Serostim, inject the diluent into the vial of Serostim aiming the liquid against the glass vial wall. Swirl the vial with a gentle rotary motion until contents are dissolved completely. The Serostim solution should be clear immediately after reconstitution. **DO NOT INJECT** Serostim if the reconstituted product is cloudy immediately after reconstitution or refrigeration. Occasionally, after refrigeration, small colorless particles may be present in the Serostim solution. This is not unusual for proteins like Serostim.

STABILITY AND STORAGE

Before reconstitution: Serostim should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Expiration dates are stated on product labels.

After reconstitution: Use within 24 hours after reconstitution with diluent. The reconstituted solution should be stored under refrigerated conditions (36° - 46°F/2° - 8°C).

Sterile Diluent, 1 mL (Sterile Water for Injection, USP) should be stored at room temperature, 59° - 86°F (15° - 30°C). Avoid freezing vials of Serostim and Sterile Diluent.

HOW SUPPLIED

Serostim is available in the following forms:

Serostim vials containing 5 mg (approximately 15 IU) somatotropin (mammalian-cell) with Sterile Water for Injection, USP. Package of 7 vials. NDC 44087-0005-7

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

Maine overturns gay rights law

United Press International

Residents of Maine voted Tuesday, February 10th to completely repeal gay rights protections that were suspended shortly after Governor Angus King signed them into law last spring.

Opponents of the law, which added sexual orientation to the 25-year-old Maine Human Rights law barring discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion, national origin, and physical or mental disability, complained the law gave special rights to gay people and undermined social values and morality. Right-wing Christian groups led a petition drive to suspend the law until the special election Tuesday, saying homosexuals don't deserve the same protections as women and minorities.

Michael Heath, director of the Christian Civil League of Maine, defended anti-gay discrimination, saying it was "appropriate to discriminate against wrongdoing."

King, however, defended the law, and said it "strikes me as wrong that somebody should lose their job because they're gay."

Although pollsters say nearly two-thirds of voters in Maine favored gay rights, a low turnout helped those who favored revok-

ing the protections. Both sides spent thousands of dollars trying to entice voters to go to the polls.

'Son of Amendment 2' will go to Supreme Court

A civil rights group has vowed to continue its fight against a Cincinnati, Ohio law that denies gay, lesbian, and bisexual citizens protection from discrimination. The ordinance, which 62 percent of the city's voters approved in 1993, prohibits legislators from passing laws that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, public accommodation, and city employment.

A three-judge appeals court panel ruled in October that voters have a right to pass legislation rejecting such discrimination protections. But the U.S. Supreme Court sent the case back to the appellate court after it ruled 6-3 that a similar Colorado law, Amendment 2, was unconstitutional.

On Thursday, February 5th, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused to review the panel's decision upholding the ordinance's constitutionality. A lawyer for the Equality Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, Alphonse Gerhardtstein, told UPI an appeal would be filed with the Supreme Court within 90 days.

No Fourth Amendment in Michigan?

Warren, Michigan officials are joining their counterparts in nearby Sterling Heights by considering a ban on sexual activity in public parks — even if that means seizing private property in a manner that some consider in violation of the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights.

The Sterling Heights police chief has asked the city council to let officers seize vehicles belonging to anyone having sex in a city park, and then sell the vehicles. A Warren councilwoman says she likes the idea, and plans to prepare a similar measure for her city council this week.

No nuns in Florida

A Marion County, Florida judge is expected to rule soon on whether an Ocala man should be tried on misdemeanor obscenity charges for wearing an offensive T-shirt. 23-year-old Andrew Love was arrested in the parking lot of a shopping mall the day after Thanksgiving, because his shirt featured a nun performing a sex act and some sacrilegious language.

In a Friday, February 6th hearing, Love said the shirt promoted the British rock band Cradle of Filth, and had a political message.

Assistant state attorney Steve Rogers said this was different than the issue of adult entertainment businesses, because Love was in a public place.

Many religious leaders were in court opposing Love, while all members of Marion Co.'s criminal defense bar are filing a friend of the court brief on his behalf. ▼

Keith Boykin

◀ page 20

writing will be nonfiction, but long simmering ideas for a novel may also take shape.

The prospect of working on another presidential campaign holds little appeal. He agrees with Congressman Barney Frank that it is "far too early" to line up behind any potential candidate. And he feels it is important that each community be in contact with all

potential candidates to "make sure they are all where they need to be on our issues."

The suggestion that Boykin himself might some day run for office brings a nervous laugh. "I'd like to be involved in public service," he says, "but I'm not sure at this point that I have the fire in my belly to endure the campaigning process."

"Or that I want to surrender the little bit of privacy that I do have and make myself essentially a servant of the people." ▼

RESEARCH STUDY OF HIV-NEGATIVE GAY MEN

I am completing my doctoral dissertation in clinical psychology at the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology in Palo Alto, California. Volunteers are needed to complete a 60 to 90 minute questionnaire. The questionnaire examines your feelings about yourself and the world, your sexual activities, and your experiences of personal loss(es) of partners, friends, and acquaintances to AIDS. Volunteers must be HIV-negative, reside within the San Francisco Bay Area, and be between the ages of 18 to 44.

If you would be interested in participating in this study, please contact Mark Jurek at 1-800-331-1010. Upon calling, you will be asked to leave your name, address and home telephone number. Questionnaires will be mailed to all participants.

Thanks for your interest!



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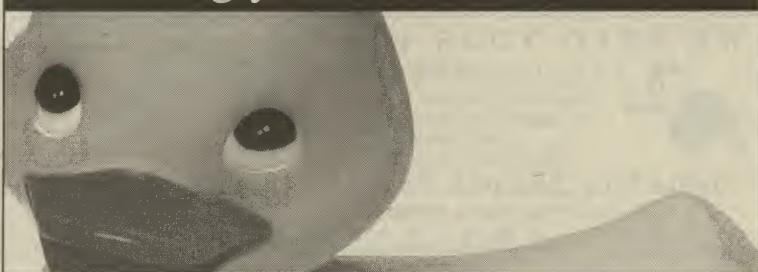
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New Leaf is funded through the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health, Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and Office, Commission on Aging, Mayor's Office of Community Development, and State of CA grants including Academy of Friends, Horizons, Macy's, and Wells Fargo.

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OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization -- and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Bobby Fields

Nov. 25, 1951 - Jan. 29, 1998



On Jan. 29, our beloved Bobby Fields left this life and started his next adventure. His love, friendship and joy are the measureless gifts that Bobby leaves to all those who knew him.

Bobby will be missed by his birth family, including his mother, Bonnie; brother, Rickie; sister-in-law, Ginger; niece, Dana; and nephew, Tom. He will also be missed by his chosen family, including his best friend Mike, Mark, Chloé, Lonnie, Steve, Rob, Tarek, Beau, Larry and Don, as well as by many other friends, including those at Neiman-Marcus (Palo Alto), where Bobby had been assistant store manager.

Bobby, you were like no other. You were the most generous and loyal friend. With those you knew well, you shared the most honest and genuine love. If a person's gift to the world can be measured in laughter, then you leave one of the greatest gifts of all. You al-

ways made us laugh, and always will. We miss you, but we know that you are saving tickets for us to join you on the biggest dance floor ever.

At Bobby's request, there will be no service. Call Mike or Lonnie for information about a gathering for Bobby.

Kenneth Parish Jr.

July 8, 1966 - Jan. 26, 1998



Kenneth Parish Jr., affectionately known to family and friends as "Fu-Fu," passed away on Jan. 26. A San Francisco native, Kenneth was a graduate of Galileo High School and Mohler Barber College.

While in high school and during his attendance at Skyline Junior College, Kenneth developed his formidable sprinting talents as a member of the school track teams. With his bleach-blond hair, he was instantly recognizable at the 1994 Gay Games in New York, where he won a bronze medal in both 100 meters and the 4x200 meter relay, and a silver medal in the 4x100 meter relay.

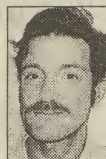
As a member of the San Francisco Track & Field Club, Kenneth brought a freshness and sense of determination that made him an integral part of the team. He made friends easily and had a smile that could charm even the most hardhearted person.

No one who knew Kenneth will ever be able to hear a Janet Jackson song and not think of him. He brightened this world for such a short time, but those who knew him were so glad he came into our lives. So long, Fu-Fu. We love you.

Gerald Edward Stoddart

Oct. 4, 1949 - Jan. 17, 1998

Jerry Stoddart passed away on Jan. 17 at California Pacific Medical Center after a very courageous battle with AIDS. He died peacefully at 1:13 p.m. on Saturday afternoon with his lover and two of his closest friends by his side. He was first diagnosed with AIDS



in 1993. During his last six months, he was able to make two trips to Sea Ranch, his favorite spot.

After graduating from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, he came to the Bay

Area in the early '70s and earned a Ph.D. in philosophy at Berkeley. In 1982 he graduated from Harvard Law School. He returned to the Bay Area in 1983 and practiced environmental law with the firm of Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro, until he stopped working in 1993.

Jerry is survived by his parents, Richard and Katherine Stoddart of Saginaw, Mich.; sisters, Sally Carigan of Saginaw and Patricia Herrick of Minneapolis; his partner, Michael Rodriguez; and a number of close friends. A celebration of life was held on Friday, Jan. 23, at his home in Noe Valley. His ashes will be scattered on the Redwood Coast. We will miss him.

Richard Allan Vieth

July 13, 1954 - Jan. 23, 1998



Richard passed away from HIV complications in San Diego on Jan. 23. He had been positive for five years.

Richard was a troupier to the end. He was preceded in death by his brother Ronald, who died in 1992, also of AIDS. The courage and strength both showed to the end of their lives are nothing short of remarkable.

Richard is survived by his brother, Frederic of Mill Valley; sisters, Sandra and Kathleen; other brothers, Joel and Thomas; and his mother, who lives in Houston, Texas. Any donations in Richard's memory should be made to your local AIDS agency.

There was a young man who wanted only to love and be loved, not ever realizing what he really saw that moment was his own reflection.

Geist dies in car crash

by Mister Marcus

On Friday, February 6, while driving home to Mississippi from a trip to Alabama, Don

Geist was killed by an errant driver, who swerved into the oncoming traffic lane and into his auto.

Geist, who had turned 73 two weeks earlier, is survived by his longtime lover Doug Anderson.

*Celebration / Memorial Service
In Honor of Donald Geist**Sunday, February 14, 1998**3-5pm at Daddy's Bar**440 Castro Street*

At this deadline, funeral services were not yet arranged.

The leather/biker/SM community owes a lot of its freedoms to Geist, who opened the first leather bar on Folsom Street, and reigned as one of South of Market's most colorful entrepreneurs throughout his co-ownership of Febe's Bar from 1966 to 1986. He and Febe's were the pioneers for the many leather bars that followed in ensuing years, and garnered the name "Miracle Mile" for Folsom Street, a destination for thousands of leather visitors to San Francisco.

As the owners of Febe's Bar at the corner of 11th & Folsom, Don and his lover John Kissinger established a genuine leather bar frequented by leathermen and bikers alike. Police harassment in those days was just accepted by most, but Geist tangled with the city and the Alcoholic Beverage Control in more than one battle that saw the bar closed off and on for a period of years until the Tavern Guild of San Francisco was established to improve relations between police authorities and bar owners.

Besides having been a battler for human rights, Geist is also remembered for his generosity to charitable demands. Even in those days, benefits were staged to help wherever needed. When the SF Health Department moved the VD Clinic to its present site on 7th Street, and no funds were available for furniture in the waiting room, Febe's held a successful benefit to furnish the waiting room.

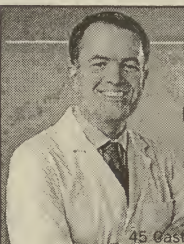
Each bike club in San Francisco (nearly a dozen in those days) hung their colors in the bar.

The 32nd Annual Motorcycle Awards ceremony this weekend is

page 27 ►

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Discontinuing of OI medication: New trials

by Mike Donnelly, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

In an article last September, ACT UP/Golden Gate first addressed the question of discontinuing prophylaxis for Opportunistic Infections (OI) like *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia (PCP), cytomegalovirus (CMV), and mycobacterium avium complex (MAC). Prophylaxis is generally started when a person's helper T-cells (CD4) drop below 200 for PCP, and 50 for both CMV and MAC.

Many people who are taking protease inhibitors have experienced a rebound in their CD4 counts and are in a quandary about whether to continue prophylaxis. The question is: If the new T-cells are functioning against the diseases, is taking medications to prevent the disease necessary? Since the advent of prophylactic agents, there have been great reductions in deaths. Now with widespread protease inhibitor use, the death rate for people with AIDS has plummeted even further. These opportunistic infections have killed people with AIDS in great numbers in the past, and the threat lingers. There is the desire in both the research and infected communities to know whether OI prophylaxis is still needed.

Current research

There are currently two federally-funded clinical trials sponsored by the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) and the Community Programs for Clinical Research on AIDS (CPCRA) to look at discontinuance of MAC prophylaxis. The antibiotics rifabutin, clarithromycin, and azithromycin have been used to prevent MAC.

ACTG 362 is enrolling at two sites locally, Stanford and UCSF. The total number of participants nationally will be 636.

CPCRA 048, with a nationwide accrual target of 850, is currently being enrolled through the Community Consortium with sites at primary care facilities (your doctor's office) throughout the Bay Area. Both studies are quite similar administering azithromycin (1200 mg. once a week) or placebo (sugar pill) for 18 months duration, using the same T-cell criterion, greater than 100. The objective of these trials is to compare the numbers of people developing MAC in each group.

Additionally, the CPCRA trial builds bacterial pneumonia into its primary purpose. "We decided to also look at bacterial pneumonia as it is an often neglected entity in HIV disease," says Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr of Harlem AIDS Treat-

ment Group and Protocol Chair of CPCRA 048.

Two sides to every coin

As with everything in AIDS, there are differing opinions regarding participation in the trial about MAC prophylaxis. We spoke to two of them. Both these individuals fit the criteria for the study, having had a CD4 count of zero sometime in their past, and both have experienced a CD4 rebound due to triple or quadruple antiretroviral drug regimens.

Neil M., a member of a local community advisory board, reflects, "Since I have felt better, I haven't wanted to change a thing. I should be dead. I'm not really sure what has kept me alive, so I hesitate to change any part of my drug regimen. I take 70 pills a day, so losing two pills a week is no big deal." Neil's CD4 count has risen to 360.

Scott, a person with AIDS, whose CD4s are currently 380, said, "At first, I was sure I wouldn't participate, but now I am in the study. I need to know if my body is responding to the antiretroviral therapy. I want to know if my body is stronger and doesn't need the crutch of prophylactic drugs. Also, I will get monitored in the study."

Claire Rappoport, the Community Constituency Group (CCG) representative to the Complications of HIV Committee of the CPCRA, notes the importance of these trials: "The question of whether to discontinue prophylaxis for MAC is very important. The results of these studies most likely will have implications regarding the changing standard of care for PCP, CMV, and possibly other OIs."

There is a substudy of ACTG 362, which addresses the discontinuation of PCP prophylaxis. A smaller group (100 of the 636 participants) who have had CD4 rebounds above 200 may also elect to discontinue their PCP prophylaxis, provided that they have never had this infection. Enrollment in this substudy currently poses a problem: only five of 156 participants enrolled in ACTG 362 have co-enrolled. There is concern among both the community and researchers that the trial may not reach the enrollment numbers necessary to answer the question. Co-enrollment can happen at any time during the study, not necessarily upon entry.

Because of the importance of the question, the CPCRA has designed a separate study to answer the PCP prophylaxis question. This study should begin enrolling

in the near future.

Jeff Gustavson, the CCG representative of the ACTG to the Therapeutic Immunology Subcommittee, stresses, "While it is clear that the second phase of CD4 rise is attributable to naive [new] cell generation, the random gene rearrangement that these cells have undergone may not yield the specific immunity necessary to prevent a given OI. In other words, it's a crap shoot."

As more and more people's CD4 counts rebound and move out of the range of danger with respect to OIs, these questions become increasingly important. We need to have studies determining if it is safe to

remove prophylaxes in a controlled environment. Many people are choosing to do this on their own, and we are losing the ability to capture data crucial to answering this question. ▼

To participate in the ACTG trials, call Sandy Valle at Stanford (650) 723-8169 or Matt Sharp at SFGH (415) 476-9296 x 360. For the CPCRA trial, contact the Community Consortium (415) 502-0658. Both studies reimburse participants \$20 per visit.



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ACTION Update

Learn the basics of the immune system

The ACT UP/Golden Gate Immune-Based Therapy Breakfast Club will hold an Immunology 101 Intensive class on Saturday, February 14th, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at 25 Van Ness Avenue (just north of Market Street), in the third floor conference room.

Marcos Garcia-Ojeda, a doctoral student in immunology at Stanford University, will teach the class from the textbook *Immunology* by Janice Kube. The class is free, but space is limited. Anyone wishing to attend should call (415) 252-9200 or e-mail actup@actupgg.org. ▼

STEPPING OUT?



Life is just a bowl

by Jim Provenzano

Japantown is Mecca for lesbian and gay bowlers. It's a fun, safe place to have a good game. But on any given Monday night, chances are you won't get a lane, unless you're one of over 700 bowlers in a lesbian and gay league.

"We started working on this since 1994," said Team rep Miguel Thurman. "We started with eight teams, and in the last five seasons, we grew to 20 teams, and often fill the entire space of Japantown Bowl." Out of that group of 100, over half are going to Amsterdam.

"It's a very good mix of men and women, and some of the best in our bowling community," said Thurman. "It's attracted a high caliber" of bowlers.

Despite losing many members to AIDS in the last decade, and a period when they didn't re-group, the league has thrived, and has consistently won six to eight medals per Gay Games.

Thurman says he has 63 registered bowlers ready to bowl their way into Amsterdam. "We have primarily A and B division bowlers. Out of that group, I think we have at least five bowlers who have an over 200 average. 25 to 30 bowl over 180, which means we should hopefully bring home some medals."

But Thurman emphasizes that the competitive aspect is not the focus, and considers bowling "more of a social sport." Bowlers' teams vary from trios to five-men leagues, a women's business league, and several community leagues.

Thurman has been bowling for 20 years. He received a Cable Car Award in 1996 as Bowler of the Year. Other outstanding bowlers include Sara Lewinstein, Don George, Debbie Carmona, and Tim Kneis.

Previously from Washington DC, where he bowled as well, but stopped for a few years, Thurman moved to the Bay Area six years ago. He re-discovered gay bowling through volunteer work with the AIDS Health Project. "It was a nice way of meeting people through volunteering."

Thurman is quick to credit the



Gay Games co-founder Sara Lewinstein focuses on the pins Feb. 9.

help of others in the league who have made it such a success, such as Rudy Maglenty, a league organizer, and Kathy Patterson, who has acted as President, as Thurman did, for several years. Bowler Chuck Verana helped develop the savings plan program, which helps bowlers store away money to offset fees and expense of Gay Games.

"Bowling lends itself to camaraderie more than other sports," he said. "You have an opportunity

to get to know people at a leisurely pace, you're able to get to know your fellow players more than in other sports. Our community is also very active in the charity work, for AIDS causes, such as SF-BEAR, the Bowler Emergency Aid Relief Fund, which is perpetuated from weekly donations for bowlers with life-threatening diseases."

How are the preparations for Amsterdam? "We're psyched. I think a lot of people are thinking more about it, now that 1998 is here, finally. We're all excited. It's wonderful to have the mother of the Games with us," he said, speaking of multi-medal athlete Sara Lewinstein, a co-founder of Gay Games.

"The only thing being worked on is airfare," said Thurman. "Plus working on our own skills, and purchasing new equipment. One key feature in our sport is to gain more experience on synthetic lanes. Japantown Bowl has only wooden lanes. We encourage people to practice at places like Serra Bowl in Colma, and Sea Bowl in Pacifica, which have synthetic

lanes." The lanes at the Amsterdam facility are synthetic. "With synthetic lanes, you tend to have to slow the ball. It's more exact. Conditions don't allow for as much leeway. I consider synthetic lanes unforgiving. You have to be more accurate."

This includes getting bowling balls that work well under versatile conditions. "Certain balls are good on all conditions, but tend to be more expensive. A really high-quality ball can cost \$175 to \$300."

Thurman adds that the pro shop at Japantown has been generous with helping bowlers make their equipment work. "It helps with the high caliber of bowling you see."

Perfect games have been rolled in the 700 series, which means a bowler's averaging 233 or higher per game in a three-game series. You have to be rolling a lot of strikes.

Japantown Bowl is a favorite hangout for the ten gay leagues that now bowl there. So much so that Japantown Bowl has offered to sponsor and donated \$2,800. So the teams will have official shirts and other backing.

Thurman says it's "their gratitude for filling the Monday night lanes for over four years."

"I guess that was their way of saying thank you. There's already been discussion for after returning from Amsterdam that the league will be re-named Sydney 2002. There's a kind of precedent that's gonna continue." ▼

For more about bowling, call Don George at (415) 255-9401 or Miguel Thurman at (415) 771-6677.

Wrestlers Calendar

Photography by Vince Gabrielly.

The official release, sale, and signing to benefit the Golden Gate Wrestlers competing in Gay Games V. Meet Vince and the team Saturday February 14, 11am - 2pm at the Raven Gallery 2187 Market St @ 15th St. (415) 821-2991 wrestler@pacbell.net

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HIVCare is a non-profit, community-based clinical trial program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital.

CURRENT TRIALS

Bay Area gives a Cheer for Gay Games V

by Faye Jenkins

It was founded in 1980, and has thrilled the crowds at each of the previous Gay Games – and won't be disappointing us this year at Gay Games Amsterdam 1998. Cheer San Francisco has been there since the very first Gay Games, performing at the opening and closing ceremonies. The year that the games goes European, Amsterdam is delighted to welcome them to Gay Games V. It's a tradition. But don't get the wrong idea. There's nothing boring about gay and lesbian traditions!

Cheer San Francisco is a group of radical high-energy performers whose routine draws on popular dance culture and acrobatics. We in Amsterdam have never seen anything like it. Cheer San Francisco is the only group of its kind to have non-profit status. Their profits go to support various gay organizations in California and the rest of the United States, where they tour extensively.

Cheer San Francisco's biggest gig has been to perform at the inauguration of President Clinton in 1997.

The group will be joined at the opening and closing ceremonies and at various locations around Amsterdam (such as Friendship Village) by the comical West Hollywood Cheerleaders and Dallas Cheer. So don't miss the glamour, razzmatazz, and thrills of this uniquely American form of entertainment. ▼

Update from the 5th Retroviral Conference

by Bob Roehr

The 5th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections was "right in the middle of the drudge work — making drug regimens work in the real world," said Spencer Cox. "It is a lot of little adjustments that will hopefully add up to easier, safer, cheaper regimens."

Most participants agreed with the spokesman for the Treatment Action Group (TAG), the New York AIDS activist research think tank. There were no breakthrough announcements, either positive or negative, and much to stimulate further research.

Perhaps most encouraging was a shift away from opportunistic infections. It is testimony to the success of combination therapies in keeping more people healthy enough to avoid those end stage diseases.

The world's foremost scientific gathering on HIV drew 3,500 participants in Chicago, February 1-5. Chair Douglas Richman MD, a researcher at the University of California San Diego, pointed to the nearly 1,300 abstracts submitted. Fewer than half were selected for presentation. That prompted some activists to grumble about who was doing the selecting and what was being excluded. But it went no further, there was plenty to keep everyone busy.

Themes

Dr. David Ho's theory of eradication of HIV from the body was what garnered him star status, including the cover of *Time* magazine. But his early calculation of eradication in as few as three years has been pushed back to perhaps 20 years by an accumulation of new knowledge.

Many scientists speculate that the goal is impossible and we should focus on helping the body contain HIV at tolerable levels. Such is the case with a number of viruses — the herpes family, hepatitis, PCP — where a healthy immune system easily holds them in check.

There is a greater understanding of the sanctuaries where HIV resides. In a paper published last fall, Johns Hopkins researcher Robert Siliciano MD showed the presence of HIV in resting cells that lay dormant for years. Current medications act against HIV only during its stages of replication. So these cells may continuously drip active HIV into the body as they reactivate, thus requiring continued therapy.

Roger Pomerantz MD from Thomas Jefferson University explained how various tissues may create micro-environments in which HIV evolves under differing conditions. Some drugs have difficulty penetrating the blood barriers to the brain, eye, and testes. Other localized enzymes may also pressure the virus differently.

One activist called this information "gently tapping nails into the coffin of Ho's theory of eradication."

Next to market

For therapy, "The holy grail is a drug with a high degree of potency, a minimal side effect profile, absence of cross-resistance to current drugs, antiviral synergy with other agents, the ability to penetrate cellular and body compartments, ease of use, and low cost," said Scott Hammer MD, a Boston researcher. "No drug on the horizon meets all of these criteria."

Much of the buzz is off the drugs likely to be submitted to the FDA later this year for full market approval. The resistance pattern of Glaxo-Wellcome's nucleoside analogue Abacavir (formerly known as 1592) is still being determined. About three percent of people in trials are sensitive to the drug and must discontinue use. Restarting treatment has led to death.

DuPont/Merck's non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor Sustiva (efavirenz or DMP-266) seems potent and easy to use. Preveon (adefovir or bis-POM PMEA) is a nucleotide analogue from Gilead that shows modest activity in monotherapy but may be more useful in combi-

nation and may have a different resistance profile.

Amprenavir (141W94) is Glaxo's new protease inhibitor. It is a small molecule that should cross the blood/brain barrier. Its effectiveness in comparisons with other protease is not known, nor is cross-resistance.

A year or two ago there were hopes that they might be a next generation of therapy. Now they are seen as incremental changes to current drugs, useful but not breakthroughs. Their most immediate value is for the heavily drug-experienced who have run out of other options. Early experiments show that patients heavily pretreated with other medications often do not do as well as drug naive.

TAG's Cox expressed his frustration when he said, "I'm not sure how much guidance we can really give patients. Maybe the appropriate thing to do is describe the impact of the different regimens and say these are the trade-offs that you are making with each."

Cutting edge

Hydroxyurea, PMPA, FTC, and zinc finger inhibitors are all drugs or approaches that hold great excitement for many researchers. But it is a lot like the rush of a new love interest. Will it last? Is there a solid foundation for long term results? For all of the optimism, the language of the presenters was tempered by phrases like "may," "preliminary," "small data sample," and "only a short period of time."

Hydroxyurea is the current darling of many activists because of tantalizing data on both effectiveness and a non-resistant profile. But also because it is inexpensive and comes from the fringes of the research establishment.

Franco Lori MD is studying the drug in combination with ddI and d4T at Georgetown University and sites in Europe. He claims to have reduced HIV to undetectable levels (below 500 copies) in 24 patients. Reports from France indicate that two people

who went off the therapy a year ago have not seen their viral load reappear. But Lori cautioned that his work is very preliminary, and said, "Dosage is very important. We have to work out this part."

John Mellors MD, a researcher at the University of Pittsburgh, believes that "the information is insufficient to make a statement about its utility at this stage." He is concerned that in some studies "CD4 counts have not increased despite viral load reductions. Reduction of viral load on Hydroxyurea may not have the same clinical benefit" as other regimens.

Scott Hammer MD foresaw its

use in salvage therapy "in selected circumstances to try to boost the activity of ddI because of the enhancement of intracellular phosphorylation of activity" as the most immediate use for Hydroxyurea. Further study may point to broader use. ▼

Online resources include abstracts from the conference at <http://www.retroconference.org> and summaries of major presentations from Project Inform, a patient education and advocacy group, at <http://www.projinf.org/RetrConf>.

Geist

◀ page 24

a reminder that the awards were originally begun by the now-defunct Barbary Coasters Motorcycle Club. In 1978, Geist was named Man of the Year by the club. And long before International Mr. Leather and other leather titles were established anywhere else, Febe's was the first bar to stage a leather title contest — the Mr. Febe's contest — choosing a winner who most resembled the famous Febe's statue.

Don's lover, John Kissingner,

shared the spotlight as co-owner of the bar. In 1945, they met in a laundromat in Kansas City when they were barely out of their teens, establishing a relationship that lasted for decades. Kissingner died in the mid-80s and their third partner, Doug, is the lone survivor of a family that is remembered by many in the leather/bike club community of San Francisco.

A celebration of Don's life is planned for this coming Sunday, February 15 at Daddy's Bar, 440 Castro, from 3-5 p.m. In lieu of flowers, Doug asks that donations be made to your favorite needy organization. ▼

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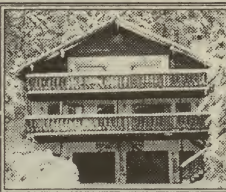
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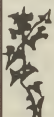
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219977
The following person(s) are doing business as Red, Blonde, and Blue, 510 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94114: David Farris Parker, 85 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed David F. Parker. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 13, 1998. Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 1998.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 220244
The following person(s) are doing business as Barton Installation, 900 Potrero Ave. #7, San Francisco, CA 94110: Mark C. Barton, 900 Potrero Ave. #7, San Francisco, CA 94110. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name on January 26, 1998. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Mark Barton. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 26, 1998. Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 1998.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 220175
The following person(s) are doing business as Egodesign, 808 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114: William M. Rutherford, 808 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed William R. Rutherford. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 21, 1998. Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 1998.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219889
The following person(s) are doing business as G.S. Delson, 2020 15th Street #5, San Francisco, CA 94114: Todd Grussing, 2020 15th Street #5, San Francisco, CA 94114; Benjamin F. Stanton IX, 2020 15th Street #5, San Francisco, CA 94114. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name on January 8, 1998. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed T. W. Grussing. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 8, 1998. Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 1998.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 220142
The following person(s) are doing business as Europe Vacations, 944 Market Street #821, San Francisco, CA 94102: Go West Tours, 944 Market Street #821, San Francisco, CA 94102. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name on January 21, 1998. This business is conducted by a corpora-

tion. Signed Stephan Forget. The This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 21, 1998. Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 220520
The following person(s) are doing business as Rumpelstiltskin Cuts 473 Pine Street SF CA 94118. This business is conducted by a individual signed Angelo Cau Tu Tu. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 2-6-98. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February, 06 1998 Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO 220444
The following person(s) are doing business as World Wide Web Marketing Alterations 584 Castro Street SF., CA 94114-2578. This business is conducted by a individual signed George Heymont. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 01-11-98. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February, 03, 1998. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE No 220577
The following person(s) are doing business as Shotwell 59. 3349 20th street, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a individual signed Gracian Lecue. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 02-06-98. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City of San Francisco, CA on February 09, 1998. Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME NO 196548. The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: World Wide Web Marketing Alternatives. 487-B Delores Street San Francisco, CA 94110. The fictitious

business name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on 6-19-95. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed George Heymont. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County in San Francisco County on the date of February 03, 1998. Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT. NO 220530. The following person(s) are doing business as MDC Construction. 412 Willits St. Daly City, CA. 94014. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Manuel D.C. Cabrera.. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed name on: 7-31-96. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the County of San Francisco CA. Feb 5, 12, 19, 26, 1998

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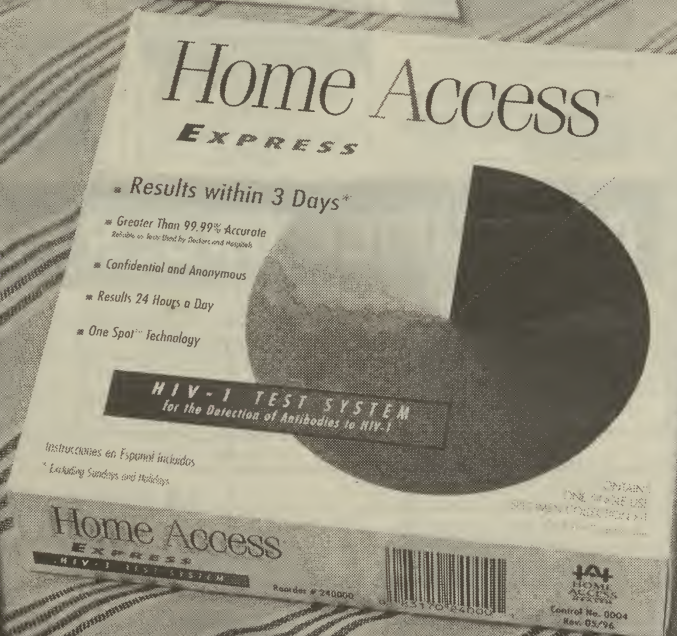
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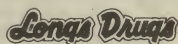
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Unlike sitcoms, dramatic series on the tube rely too heavily on queer stereotypes, says Victoria Brownworth. **page 35**

Terrence Malick's dark vision of a fugitive on the run returns to the Castro. **page 37**



San Francisco Ballet showcases star power in first two programs of '98. **page 39**



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 7 • 12 February 1998

WAR GAMES

JOHN FISHER'S
'COMBAT!' IS
AN UNCAMPY
FOLLOW-UP TO
'MEDEA, THE
MUSICAL'

by Richard Dodds



Lesbians on stage," John Fisher ordered. "I don't care if they're naked. I want them on stage now."

Two young actresses scurried up from the dressing room, their khaki costumes askew, to mime a seduction scene so stage lights could be adjusted.

A few minutes later, six actors in Marine uniforms trotted on stage in a drill formation that wasn't as precise as it could be. "I don't rehearse things so they can get screwed up later," Fisher barked with the authority of a Marine sergeant, which just happens to be the role he plays in *Combat! An American Melodrama*, his own play about gays in the military opening this week at the Victoria Theatre. In addition to acting in the play, the 34-year-old Fisher is also directing the show, the long-awaited follow-up to his much-acclaimed campy spectacle, *Medea, the Musical*.

"I don't see how people can do theater without being obsessive," he said during a break in a tech rehearsal, the tough-guy demeanor disappearing as he settled into a seat in the musty auditorium. "I feel responsible for everything. I don't sleep well. I can't relax."

But his cast members obviously understand. All have worked with Fisher before, and some have been with him through a dozen productions. "We're all friends," he said. Several have also been his students.

Working out of the theatre department at UC Berkeley, where he is a Ph.D. candidate and part-time drama

instructor, Fisher has written, directed, and often appeared in a series of campy musicals that have increasingly been embraced by mainstream critics and audiences. *Napoleon, the Camp, Drag Disco Musical* and *Cleopatra, the Musical* were among his campus hits, but it was the unambiguously titled *The Joy of Gay Sex* that gave him his first high-profile success in San Francisco. That was followed by *Medea, the Musical*, a crossover hit that enjoyed a long commercial run at the Stage Door Theatre.

Like Fisher's earlier shows, *Combat!* enjoyed a Berkeley production, but unlike the others, *Combat!* is an often serious affair that owes more to Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* than to the Charles Ludlam farces that inspired his earlier work. "Seeing a seven-and-a-half-hour play about AIDS that people were really enjoying made me think I could write a three-hour play about gays in the military," Fisher said.

It's a subject Fisher has been studying for years, he said, adding that he was drawn to the special dynamics World War II provided. Still, while certain characters were obviously based on historical figures, *Combat!* is not a documentary. Actually, Fisher said he doesn't know how to categorize the play, though he cited Bertolt Brecht and *Dr. Strangelove* as stylistic forerunners.

"Being somebody who writes comedy," he said, "I didn't want it to be strictly serious. There is a lot of lightness, but the second act becomes an increasingly serious analysis of the subject."

Set mainly in the Pacific during World War II, the play consists of three storylines woven through an historic panorama that includes appearances by General Eisenhower, FDR, and even John Wayne. In a Marine unit commanded by a kinky sergeant (played by Fisher), two privates fall in forbidden love, an affair that has its match between two lesbians in a WAC outfit. The third

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

We were planning to prattle on about the Oscar nominations and share with readers our favorite Bill Clinton jokes, but then we realized that the latest blather out of Hollywood is more or less redundant, as is any speechifying by that ennui-soaked specter posing as our fearless leader. So, instead we've decided to do something meaningful in this space by quoting liberally from the most persuasively argued essay we've read yet this year on the subject of what ails America. Writing in last week's *The Nation*, former Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich noted that "inequality keeps rising in the U.S., but hardly anyone inside the respectable political spectrum is willing to confront it. More people are in poverty, and at the same time, the upper reaches of America have never had it so good."

Reich notes that self-interest and getting ahead have always been the American Way, but what distinguishes our generation from those past is that the powers-that-be today aren't even trying to create an equitable society. "America is strangely immobilized," Reich

notes, "and the proposed remedies so small, relative to the problems, their impact would go almost undetected." The most important thing the United States could do now, Reich writes, "is to get back on the track we were on during the first three decades after World War II, toward creating a society in which everyone has a chance of making it."

Cynical readers might think there has never been a time when America's rich and powerful weren't concerned with lining their own pockets, but in point of fact, Reich lists several noble examples of a government attempting to strike a balance between haves and have-nots. "Throughout our history the U.S. has periodically asserted the public's interest when market outcomes threatened social peace — curbing the power of the great trusts, establishing pure food and drug laws, implementing a progressive federal income tax, imposing a forty-hour workweek, barring child labor, creating a system of social security, expanding public schooling and access to higher education, extending health care to the elderly, and so forth."

Reich doesn't offer easy solutions for "getting back on track," but he locates the problem area by observing our lack of commitment to understanding the important role played in society by a "social compact" that guarantees a standard of living for all citizens.

"The current trends — the bottom half going nowhere while the top soars, a waning social compact — is not sustainable," Reich warns. "When the current expansion slows, those who are barely staying afloat or who are sinking will not remain silent. Yet by that time, I fear, their voices may resound not to progressive ideals but to the virulent politics of resentment."

Hero worship

We were chatting the other day with our good friend Daniel Harris, author of last year's mordantly witty and astute *The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture*. Harris' work continues to probe into some rather dark corners. In fact, *The Antioch Review* is set to publish his latest effort, *The Electronic Funeral: Mourning Versace*, in its



Daniel Harris

Spring '98 issue.

In the essay, Harris examines the responses he found on the Internet to the murder of Gianni Versace last August. Writing that "the fashion newsgroups were choked with bereaved bulletin board messages posted by woe-begone designers and traumatized supermodel wannabes," Harris notes that what we witnessed wasn't so much "mourning" as it was a "spectator sport" created by the news media.

According to Harris, this "sob

fest" disguised as hero worship is part of our need to feel connected to a nation, as we have allowed our identities to be taken over by "a special class of bureaucrats who have relieved us entirely of the disagreeable nuisance of a participatory democracy." Hero worship, Harris argues, is one of the few remaining ways to experience a sense of belonging.

Serious though it is, Harris' essay is characteristically chock-full of wicked humor, in this case the pathetic postings of the Versace mourners. "Who would do such an offal thing?" one posting read. In another, a poet writes: "It's a shame the world will never again see/New creations from the visions of thee?" Yet another uses the Internet to tell readers: "I am on a diet — my goal, to wear Versace jeans and make them look like they are meant to look." And the most horrific: "Gianni, if they have AOL in heaven, my sweet angel, read this and know I am a mere 12 of age and your tragic death has made an indent in my soul forever." God help us all.

It's all in her mind

We were lining our birdcage over the weekend with several pages of the *B.A.R.* when suddenly our eye happened to scan a line or two from last week's interview with transgender shaman gender theorist Kate Bornstein, who, in our humble opinion, is a crashing bore. "Gender is irrelevant," Bornstein said, "in the same way that race, age, class, and body type are all irrelevant until someone oppresses us for one of those reasons."

That's true, but instead of offering people concrete and practical solutions for dealing with oppression, Bornstein launches into a lot of postmodern gendergibber whose faddish appeal at the *fin de siècle* suggests she is no more interested in relieving people's unhappiness in a cruel world than a fop is in finding a job.

Bornstein is essentially a personality, not an intellectual theorist who is busy developing some kind of comprehensive philosophy of immanence, though the hard-boiled hype surrounding her twaddle would certainly have it that way. Really, no matter what intersexual or interstitial trappings humankind assumes for itself, we are still trapped in three dimensions (height, width, depth) and careening about a time/space continuum with its own agenda. That's a cosmic predicament beyond booby drivel, photo ops, and bathos-laden clichés. Get real, Kate.

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Unlike Bornstein, performance artist Karen Finley always has something interesting up her sleeve. Last time we saw the artist

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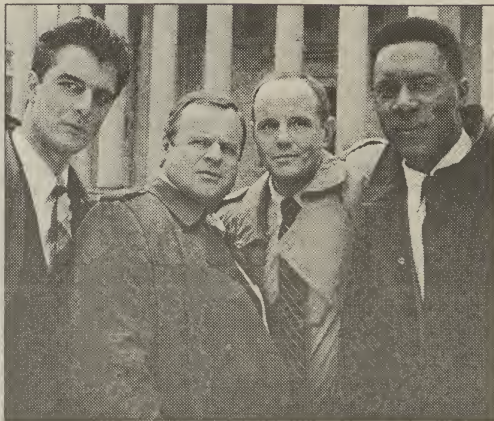
by Victoria Brownworth

Ever since Ellen DeGeneres became the lesbian Mary Tyler Moore of the '90s, queers have begun to carve a place for themselves in television comedies. But in the area of television dramas, from serials to high-grade episodic TV, it's bad news for queers. The dramatic landscape for homos in the '90s mimics that for blacks in the '70s. Twenty years ago, black characters were well-entrenched in sitcom land. A few shows, like *The Jeffersons* and *Sanford and Son*, even had predominantly black casts. But drama series from that period, with notable exceptions like *I Spy*, *Mission Impossible*, and *The Mod Squad*, relegated black actors to the roles of domestics, prostitutes, pimps, and criminals. Queers have escaped the domestic-help roles — unless personal trainers and interior decorators count for same — but the *Basic Instinct*, ice-pick mentality still drives most queer characterizations on television dramas.

The trend toward dark, conspiracy-oriented shows has spawned some nasty programming involving queers. My must-loathe TV choice of the year would have to be *Millennium*, which debuted last year with a horrifying spectacle worthy of a slaughterhouse. The script *must* have been authored by Jeffrey Dahmer as it traded in hideous mutilations of gay men and female prostitutes with a nifty AIDS tie-in. (People buried alive, eyes and mouths sewn shut, and the French word for plague — *peste* — written on their coffins.) The show comes with a TV-14 rating and the usual disclaimer about younger viewers, yet it is obvious targeted at impressionable teenage males. This is the kind of show that clearly gives television a bad name.

More problematic are the popular, terrifically well-acted, and usually well-written *NYPD Blue* and *Law & Order*. *Blue* has worked queer-themed shows into its line-up since its premiere several years ago, some good, some iffy, and some really bad. On the positive side, there is a tendency to point out the anti-gay attitudes of some series regulars as a bad thing, as writers did with issues of racism in the '60s and '70s, and to acknowledge that *queer* and *New York* go hand in hand. On the negative side, there are far too many stereotypes — the black transsexual prostitute, or the old closet case who gets mugged by rough-trade. And there is worse. Last season, *Blue* introduced a lesbian character, Abby (Paige Turco), who gets artificially inseminated by nice-guy detective Greg Medavoy (Gordon Clapp). Then, in a horrifying twist, Abby was shot while eight-months pregnant and her girlfriend, Carol, murdered. At first, it appeared to be domestic violence, with Abby going to prison. But it was worse than that. The real shooter was Paige's ex-lover/lesbian stalker. (Interestingly, Carol was played by Lisa Barr, who now plays Ellen's gal pal; guess she had to die in order to be reincarnated into sitcom heaven.)

A few months later, a butch dyke was brutally murdered by her girlfriend, and then a fag-hag



The cast of *Law & Order*.

was murdered by her psychopathic brother. *NYPD Blue* is fast becoming one to queercott. Considering closet-dyke Donna Deitch, director of *Desert Hearts*, the most popular lesbian feature film to date, directs many episodes of this show, it's appalling there isn't more positive queer fare.

Similar problems beset *Law & Order*, which conflates real-life crime stories into scripts. There are no regular queer characters, but homos do turn up regularly as villains and especially victims. An episode two weeks ago focused on a gay male serial killer who left a

male victim to decompose dressed in garter belt, fishnets, and lots and lots of blood.

The rule for drama seems to be that the more out a character is, the more sordid the depiction. Which is why there are so many encoded characters on prime time. Like Sam (Ally Walker) and Angel (Elsa Gimpel) on *The Profiler*, which asks us to believe Angel supported Sam at her country home for three years because Sam's husband was murdered and she was very upset. Right. This show also features an

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John Fisher

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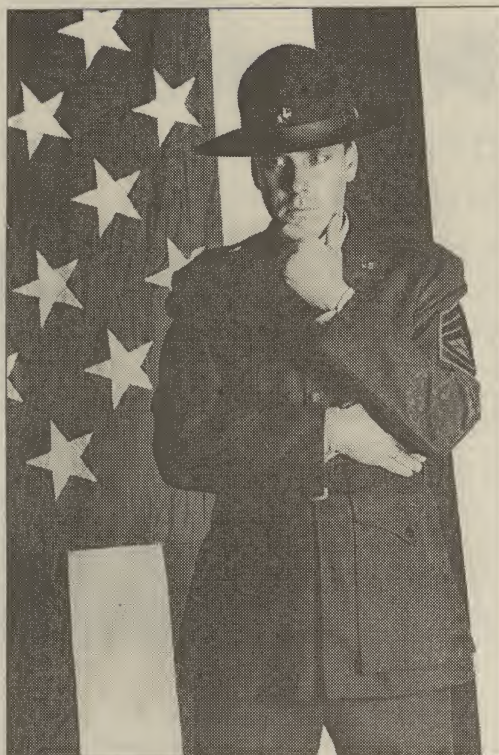
"The stories only slightly intersect," Fisher said, "but they do comment on each other." In the end, even after the homophobia depicted in the play takes on cruel dimensions, Fisher offers signs of hope. "The characters are kind of prescient," he said. "They can see ahead to a better future."

About his own life, Fisher said he was a "closeted mess" well into his 20s, when he realized that he loved a college friend he'd known since he was 19. A telling moment happened when, as buddies still dating women, they went to a campus double bill of *Sunset Boulevard* and *All About Eve*. "We walked out of there like a couple kids who had just seen a *Star Wars* movie. I thought, 'This is sort of neat. Here's a man I can talk to.'" A decade later, Fisher and Michael Sherrod-Flores are still together, making their home in the Haight, and Fisher acknowledged that he has never known the company of another man.

"We're very happy, very compatible, and being happy lets me do these plays," he said. "One person works very well for me."

Given his monogamous lifestyle, Fisher might seem an unlikely source for a string of flamboyantly gay theater projects. "I think personally I'm pretty uptight," he said, "but I love to see flamboyance on stage. I'm not good at it myself, but I love to control it and put it on stage. Rehearsals are like my gay bar — the noise and music and excitement. My promiscuity, I guess, is doing plays."

Growing up in Marin County in the '70s, Fisher said he was "a very naughty boy — but boring naughty." His rebellion usually peaked at taking long walks instead of showing up for the sports-team practices that his parents encouraged. Theater eventually became a refuge from the "hideously dull" routines of life in Ross.



John Fisher in *Combat!*, at the Victoria Theatre through March 14. For tickets (\$21 and \$24), call 621-7797 or BASS at 776-1999.

"I remember seeing a production of *Bye, Bye Birdie*, and there was one kid in the chorus in really tight jeans," Fisher said. "There was sort of an erotic quality about people on stage that movies just didn't have for me."

Fisher became a regular on his high school stage, and then headed to Long Beach State to study drama. He finished up his undergraduate work at Berkeley before entering the graduate and Ph.D. programs. Along the way, he took time off to explore life in Los Angeles and New York, working on the fringes of show business.

"I eventually figured I should have some sort of career, and I remembered enjoying being a stu-

dent," Fisher said. He headed back to California, where he remains a student — albeit an unusually creative one. The university has given him a forum for his flights of fancy, which eventually found sponsors who wanted to produce them in San Francisco.

Producer Jonathan Zimmerman saw *The Joy of Gay Sex* during its four-day Berkeley run, and was so impressed he raised the money to move it to Theatre Rhinoceros. Zimmerman was part of the team that turned *Medea, the Musical* into a long-running hit, and he is now producing the \$65,000 production of *Combat!* at the Victoria Theatre.

In the meantime, a New York production of *Medea* remains a possibility, and a screenplay Fisher wrote satirizing the affirmative action debates at Berkeley is being shopped around by show-business manager Charles Joffe, whose clients include Woody Allen. Fisher is also hard at work on a new play, though he is reluctant to discuss it in detail. One thing he will say about the new work is that it's not predominantly about being gay. "It has a lot of action," said Fisher, "but it's not a musical, and it's probably more strictly a drama than *Combat!*"

Through all this, Fisher is still plugging away at his thesis dissertation, a study of camp in the theater, though he doesn't appear to be in any hurry to finish it. "I'm very happy with the situation as it is," he said, "but you can't be a graduate student forever."

Toward the end of our conversation, Fisher began fidgeting, an indication that he was eager to get back to the rehearsal. "Someone stand where I stand in this scene," he called out to the stage so the lighting designer could make adjustments. Acting in an elaborate production like *Combat!*, in addition to directing it, might seem like a burden, but Fisher calls it "fun."

In *Combat!*, Fisher plays a gruff drill sergeant who, in his own words, is "sexually ambiguous and mean. He believes in getting the work done by any means necessary," said Fisher. "He's a director." ▼

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Badlands: Natural born killers

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Andrew Cunanan was the buzz last summer. As the handsome and charismatic boy-toy crossed the country killing former lovers and total strangers until his luck ran out on a Miami houseboat, he was on the Ten Most Wanted list, and everyone and their cousin claimed to have seen him lurking in their neighborhood. The serial killer who had taken down two ex-lovers, a millionaire, a small-town groundskeeper, and one of the world's most famous fashion designers saved his last bullet for himself, in true fugitive style.

Frontier nation that we are, America loves its killers, particularly the fugitive kind. The 1890s gave us Billy the Kid, the James brothers, and other, lesser-known murderers. The roaring '20s had Bonnie and Clyde and John Dillinger. But it was the tranquil and sedate '50s, the era of Ozzie and Harriet, that spawned a different sort of outlaw, men like Perry Smith, memorialized in Truman Capote's brilliant book *In Cold Blood*, or Charles Starkweather, brought to life in Terrence Malick's tight 1973 thriller, *Badlands*.

Malick's strength as a director is his ability to see into the depths — rich, deep, and sometimes dark — of America's heartland. He loves the visual imagery of open fields and prairies, the vast, broad horizon of America's golden center, the impossibly blue skies, and breathtaking sunsets. He lingers on the rambling but cozy farmhouses with their wide apron porches and swinging screen doors; you can almost smell the pie cooling on the windowsill. The intensity of his investigation into our homesteading roots, our search for an exterior wilderness to calm our interior questing, is a consistent theme in Malick's work. In the Oscar-winning *Days of Heaven* (1978), which remains one of the most visually lush and exquisite American movies ever made, the landscape is as elemental to the plot as the action of the characters themselves.

Badlands, Malick's debut feature, takes that same landscape, that very same territory so ripe with promise in *Days of Heaven*, and explicates it as the claustrophobic, eponymous badlands of the title. Against this broad, lush, and visually stunning backdrop, Malick tells the dark tale of Charles Starkweather, a young drifter who, with teenage Caryl Fugate, does a murderous tour of the heartland that would put him, Fugate, and the term "spree killer" into both headlines and history.

Malick's story is creepy, the direction taut and atmospheric. Though lacking the perfection and power of Richard Brooks' earlier adaptation of *In Cold Blood* (1967), *Badlands* is nevertheless a stunner of a movie. Malick may be feeling his way, but he definitely knows the territory. The film's pacing builds slowly, like heat on a summer day. There is none of the high-pitched hysteria and over-the-top violence of Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers*, which borrows liberally from Malick. In fact, it is precisely the understated manner in which the director deftly peels away the layers of violence within Starkweather that makes the film so eerily and horrifyingly realistic. In Malick's vision, Starkweather becomes the prototypical fugitive, angry young man, and vulnerable lover with a

sociopathic streak.

With a superb cast that delivers excellent and layered performances, *Badlands* mesmerizes. Martin Sheen's Starkweather is jumpy, agitated, cold, and unnerving. Far and away his best performance, he looks every bit the young James Dean gone terribly, horribly wrong. This rebel without a cause takes up a gun and doesn't put it down until he's exploded the

postwar complacency of America by ripping open its very heart.

Sissy Spacek, a terribly underutilized and under-appreciated actress, plays the strange, cipher-like Fugate with depth and power. Her strawberry-blond hair and masses of freckles are emblematic of the landscape. But her ability to go completely vacant, or dramatically hyperactive with the blink of an eye, makes her the perfect foil for

Sheen's tightly wound Starkweather. These two make everything that happens believable, awful, and remarkably compelling.

Warren Oates, Ramon Vieri, and Alan Vint round out the cast. The film is available on videotape, but the big screen gives full range to Malick's dark vision of what happens when America's twisted past comes face to face with its seamy present. ▼



Sissy Spacek in *Badlands*, which plays at the Castro Theatre, February 13-19.

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Old and new

Dance Theatre of Harlem

by Kyle James

The Dance Theatre of Harlem blew into Berkeley last week at about the same time as the pelting rains and buffeting winds. And while the storms raged outside Zellerbach Hall, where the group performed, this vibrant, re-energized company stirred up its own tempest on-stage, albeit with grace, precision, and control.

DTH presented two distinct programs during its tour — one comprised of immortal classics, the other of works destined to become classic. As a tribute to that giant of 20th-century dance, George Balanchine, DTH presented its first all-Balanchine program in 20 years.

The evening began with *Serenade*, and the audience gasped as the curtain rose to reveal a striking tableau of female dancers dressed in light blue leotards and gossamer skirts standing stone-still in front a blue background, arms raised as if beckoning to some unseen spirit. More water nymph than human, the women flowed and eddied around the stage while the men — powerful, quick, and precise — bobbed in and out.

Former San Francisco Ballet dancer Duncan Cooper was featured in the next piece, *The Prodigal Son*. Cooper, and the "goons" who lead him astray, epitomized a

powerful, masculine, almost brute force in this piece. Still, while their carnal energies almost threatened to send things flying out of control, the dancers managed to channel their intensity into some amazingly athletic feats of dance.

Alicia Graf, who is only 18, played the story's siren. Her impossibly long limbs made her a perfect fit for the part of the malevolent, sinewy, serpentine vixen. Her characterization was saucy, yet revealed a confidence that betrays her age. This is a young woman the dance world and audiences are watching with no little awe.

Balanchine's *The Four Temperaments*, one of the choreographer's great experiments to modern music, concluded the program. Oscar Hawkins impressed in the "Melancholic" solo. His expressive features, pliant spine, and open stances provided gravity without weighing things down. The dancers in the "Phlegmatic" section moved along in an almost desultory fashion, and Donald Williams' wrist-flips threw some sly, foppish humor in for good measure. But Alicia Graf stole the show again when she danced the final "Choleric" section.

The other program featured *The Moor's Pavane*, *Adrian (Angel on Earth)*, and, finally, *Sansaka*. The latter piece showed DTH going boldly into new, uncharted directions. The work, created for the company by South African



Alicia Graf

choreographer Vincent Sekwati Mantsoe, fuses traditional African movement, ritual, and music with contemporary Western dance forms. The results were fresh and astounding. The dancers' bodies didn't merely move, they undulated, as if made of rubber. The music and movement were in perfect synch, and the driving, hypnotic beat seemed to put dancers in touch with something very basic and animalistic. They seemed to relish the pure physicality of their being. The dance was earthy, seductive, sensual, and alive.

Sansaka received its world premiere in April of last year, and it shows. Some of the unison sections were off, and it was apparent that this was a new work for the company. However, with a little seasoning and more confidence, *Sansaka* could easily become a company staple. ▼

Crowd pleasers

Tortelier, Ashkenazy, and St. Clair at Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

Recent weeks at Davies Symphony Hall have witnessed something of an open-door policy for guest conductors. Two debuts and a welcome return brought a smorgasbord of styles and repertoire that will continue this week and next with two more visiting conductors.

First up was Yan Pascal Tortelier. As Principal Conductor of the BBC Philharmonic since 1992, he has earned international respect beyond his original claim to fame as the son of the late, great cellist Paul Tortelier. The program's bold opener, the brief but demanding *Metaboles* by Henri Dutilleux, immediately alerted listeners to this conductor's sensuous yet precise technique. The results were remarkable.

Russian pianist Arcadi Volodos was supposed to play Brahms' Second, but he played Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto instead. It was an electrifying debut with the SF Symphony. The pianist's phrasing and tempo choices were quirky (a little slow here, a bit fast there), but he ultimately let the music speak for itself, and the audience rewarded him with a collective shout of approval. I can't remember when I've been so fascinated with a player's sheer virtuosity. Mr. Volodos is obviously embarking on a very impressive career.

The concert ended with Torte-

lier's own transcription and orchestration of Maurice Ravel's Piano Trio. The maestro boasts a superior knowledge of the score, having performed it many times with his famous father. A masterpiece in its original form, the piece loses nothing in the way of color as a work for large orchestral forces. The performance was suitably elegant and intense.

Next up was our old friend Vladimir Ashkenazy, who brought a familiar blend of artistry and energy to bear on several contrasting works. The evening began with two brief pieces by Domenico Scarlatti, charmingly arranged for wind band by Dmitri Shostakovich. The pieces served as an ideal set-up for that same composer's dark and disturbing Violin Concerto No. 2, superbly rendered by Antje Weithaas.

Ashkenazy closed the concert with Richard Strauss' *Symphonia Domestica*. Although this is hardly top-drawer Strauss, and at times is downright vulgar, it didn't stop this conductor from coaxing a big, cohesive performance from the orchestra. If this is the Strauss tone poem that must be chosen for airing, it should always sound so good.

Last week, Carl St. Clair, Music Director of the Pacific Symphony Orchestra in Orange County, made his SF Symphony debut. It was an underwhelming start.

Though he has gained a reputation as a proponent of contem-

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DANCE

Movers and shakers

Solomakha, Boada, Tan show star power in SF Ballet programs

by Stephanie von Buchau

The first three performances of the San Francisco Ballet — a late January gala and two subscription-series programs — introduced nine world or SFB premieres. With the exception of Jerome Robbins' 1983 *Glass Pieces*, almost none of this "new" choreography is worth much comment, but the dancing was first rate.

Two of the world premieres were by Helgi Tomasson. *Two Bits* has an appealing dance score by Aaron Jay Kernis, played onstage by a string quartet and guitarist David Tanenbaum. Yet the choreography is that typical dance-hall jive that Tomasson concocts for Evelyn Cisneros. She's worthy of something more than provocative hip-swiveling, though her macho partner, David Palmer, did a lot to elevate the tone of their duo.

Twilight is another self-consciously "sexy" duet, set to the adagio of Mendelssohn's Second Piano Concerto. In its strenuous romanticism, it looked like outtakes from Robbins' *In the Night* (on program two). With the awkward partners she's bumped up against in the past, Joanna Berman must be the unluckiest ballerina in SFB history. Yuri Possokhov looked fine with Elizabeth Loscavio, who is no longer with the company, but with Berman in *Twilight* and Sabina Alleman in *In the Night*, he looked gauche and bumptious.

However, Berman drew Stephen Legate for *In the Night*, and while it may be disconcerting to dance with someone who is "prettier than you are" (as Kristin Scott Thomas said of Ralph Fiennes in *The English Patient*), at least Legate knows how to show off his lady to her full advantage. He was also excellent with the very different Katita Waldo in *Glass Pieces*, providing versatility and sensitivity as a partner.

But if we're talking about partnering — and if you are my kind of balletomane, you are always talking about partnering — then we need look no further than Vadim Solomakha. The blond Ukrainian is still a soloist, but I suspect his promotion to principal has been delayed because he's been injured most of the time since he joined SFB in 1995. His partnering with Waldo in *In the Night*, and with Berman in the "Sylph pas" from Harald Lander's *Etudes* was cherishable. He cuts an elegant figure — with handsomely muscled legs — and supports his ballerina securely.

The proof of his versatile partnering skills came when paired with Yuan Yuan Tan in the first movement of *Glass Pieces*, and in the Black Swan *pas de deux* at the gala. She looked fine with lanky Cyril Pierre in *Handel — a Celebration*, but she and Solomakha were special in the Tchaikovsky. The way Tan snatched her hand away from Solomakha and fixed him with those cold, glittering eyes, and the way he played off her arrogance while still maintaining control of her remarkable extensions, was so delicious that one forgave Tan her lack of stamina in the 32 fouettés. (Remember the interview in which Natalia Makarova was asked to define "ballerina" and said, "I cannot do 32 fouettés. Margot cannot do them. Maya cannot do them. Any girl from American

Ballet Theatre can do 32 fouettés... but who is ballerina?")

Other satisfying dancers included Julie Diana, whose buoyant Buornonville style in *La Sylphide* might impress even the Danes; Sabina Allemann, whose tipsy swell in *Filling Station* justified the revival of that moldy fig; Lucia Lacarra and Muriel Maffre, boneless and lethal in Robbins' misogynistic *The Cage* (I know it's a famous piece, but I hated it when Nora Kaye did it, and I still hate it); and, of course, the Cuban jumping bean, Joan Boada.

Boada appeared as a thrilling guest in *Le Corsaire* at the gala, and later in *Etudes*. I imagine Tomasson would mortgage the farm to have a star presence like Boada on the team full-time. He's young, he's cute, and he sure can jump. But for the long haul, put your money on Solomakha and pray that he stays healthy. ▼



Yuan Yuan Tan and Vadim Solomakha in *Glass Pieces*.

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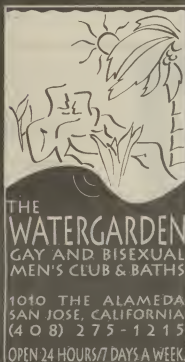
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by Jim Van Buskirk

It's Not Unusual: A History of Lesbian and Gay Britain in the Twentieth Century by Alkarrim Jivani; Indiana University Press, \$35.00 cloth/\$15.95 paper

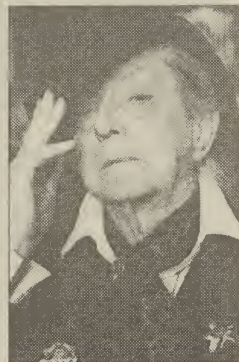
It's Not Unusual is in fact unusual in its deviation from the traditional approach of simply surveying history. Tracing nearly a century of accomplishments and setbacks, and dropping the names of the rich and famous, this chronicle of queer Britain also effectively uses oral interviews to convey the social lives of "ordinary" gay men and lesbians. In addition, well-chosen photographs from the private collections of

these contributors augment film stills and images of such celebrities as Noel Coward and drag performer Danny LaRue.

Reminiscent of Charles Kaiser's recent *Gay Metropolis, 1940-1996* in its epic scope and anecdotal approach, *It's Not Unusual* begins in 1918 when the word "homosexual" began to gain currency. The oldest respondent, Evelyn Irons, born in 1900, recalls her friendship with Radclyffe Hall, adding her perspective on the scandal surrounding the 1928 publication of Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* as well as more personal recollections. "John and I — of course Radclyffe Hall was always called John — always wore dinner jackets and skirts with striped braid down the side, not trousers."

Irons, one of Vita Sackville-West's lovers, recalled that "Vita didn't like butch get-up at all." Dissuaded by the British army from her goal of war correspondent, Irons followed the advice of a friend and attached herself to the French army, eventually earning the prestigious Croix de Guerre.

The impact of World War II on lesbians and gays is evoked through firsthand descriptions of the pressures of war on lovers, photos of soldiers' drag shows, and by Quentin Crisp's quip that "when the black-out came, Lon-



Quentin Crisp

don became a vast double bed."

The ghost of Oscar Wilde, who died in 1900, pervades the book in which other historical influences also frequently pop up. In the 1968 film *The Killing of Sister George*, Beryl Reid sings "Burlington Bertie" dressed in a dinner jacket, paying tribute to cross-dressing music hall singer Vesta Tilley, who was popular at the turn of the century.

Fascinating phenomena specific to Britain include the largely ignored 1957 Wolfenden Report's attempts to decriminalize homosexual behavior; "shebeens," illegal drinking clubs held in private houses, usually run by black people and subject to frequent raids; and "polari," a secret language common in theatre circles, which enabled users to speak freely without others understanding what they were saying. "Bona to vada your jolly old eek again," Kenneth Williams' regular greeting on the radio comedy *Round the Horne*, translates as "Nice to see your face once more."

The influence of America on British history is repeatedly emphasized. Jivani notes: "The fact that the word [gay] was more prevalent in America than in Britain was no impediment to the pioneering gay liberationists on this side of the Atlantic who took all their early inspiration from America. Indeed, gay rights activists in Western Europe all date the beginning of the struggle back to the Stonewall riots."

For example, after the anti-gay Clause 28 was passed in 1988, one of the groups organized out of the battle against the vaguely worded law was called Stonewall (actor Sir Ian McKellen was a founding lobbyist). Earlier, internal conflicts similar to those that had plagued the nascent gay rights struggle in America were echoed in Britain as the Homosexual Law Reform Society renamed itself the Committee for Homosexual Equality and opposed many of the activist tactics of the Gay Liberation Front.

While not comprehensive — and marred by occasional typos and a horrendous cover — *It's Not Unusual* boasts an index, bibliography, and brief biographies of the 14 female and 22 male contributors. (Surprisingly, the book makes no mention of the excellent 150-minute BBC-produced documentary of the same name directed by Ian MacMillan and Cheryl Farthing, which screened at last year's San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. The film includes extensive interview footage of 22 of the same men and women featured in the book.) Alkarrim Jivani has fashioned a lively introduction to our queer brothers and sisters across the Atlantic. ▼

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BOOKS

Mortal matters

by Deborah Peifer

Seeing the Crab: A Memoir of Dying Before I Do by Christian Middlebrook; Anchor, \$12.95

Tetralogies: A Cultural Study of Cancer by Jackie Stacey; Routledge, \$18.95

AIDS and the Body Politic: Biomedicine and Sexual Difference by Catherine Waldby; Routledge, \$18.99

When I was young, the word cancer, if mentioned at all, always involved dropping the voice to a whisper, as in "She has ... cancer." The kind of cancer was usually not worth mentioning because the word itself was enough to engender terror. I always wondered whether we were afraid that if cancer heard its name, heard us call it, it would somehow feel invited to invade. One large gift AIDS activists have given all of us is the courage to speak out about our illnesses. Three new books look at the personal, sociological, and political faces of life-threatening illness, and each has much to offer.

In these enlightened days, women who learn they are carrying a malignant lump expect to make a choice between lumpectomy and mastectomy. Certainly, that's what Christina Middlebrook anticipated when she was diagnosed with premenopausal breast cancer: "I didn't understand the intentional vagaries of the words early detection, which imply that finding a potentially lethal disease is the same as discovering its cause and curing it. We, whose cancers have been diagnosed in our thirties and forties, are always compared to the postmenopausal crowd, those for whom mammograms are accurate and who have already faced the issue of living without estrogen. Truth is, we don't even exercise in the same jaylaid."

Middlebrook's story of her diagnosis and treatment is powerful. She writes with passion and anger, and the painful recognition that the "spot on the spine" is "camouflage for the stink words: tumor, metastasis, recurrence, progression of disease, Stage IV, inevitably fatal — words and phrases you can't say without holding your nose." Although Middlebrook recognizes that she will not have a chance to grow old, she argues for living fully until the end comes. *Seeing the Crab* affirms life even as it details the slow dissolution of life that comes with metastatic cancer. Although Middlebrook's story is painful to read, she never makes herself the hero of some mythical tale of personal growth through suffering.

Jackie Stacey's *Tetralogies: A Cultural Study of Cancer* takes a more detached view of things. Although the work came out of her own diagnosis with a highly malignant form of cancer, Stacey's agenda has more to do with study-

ing the ways in which cancer is perceived and reported than on telling her own story. Cancer narratives, she argues, are replete with heroism, triumph, and courage under fire. Unfortunately, these narratives "leave no room for the futility of pain and the arbitrariness of disease, the unbearable pointlessness of suffering." Stacey argues that most writing about cancer underscores the "conventional privileging of the triumphs of a few at the expense of the majority. The lucky ones are celebrated while the rest suffer defeat." Conventional understandings about cancer, writes Stacey, offer up "heroes" who are given special treatment over the merely cancer-afflicted. "Isn't she brave? Isn't he wonderful? They fought until the end but then died gracefully," writes Stacey. "And what of the others? What of those who declined rapidly, who cried with fear and terror in the face of death? What of those who do not smile bravely? In the success/failure binarisms of hero narratives, these people can only be seen as the failures."

Of special interest for all of us who have watched the dismantling of the social safety net in the area of health care is Stacey's telling argument that the drive toward taking responsibility for our own health has more to do with saving the government money than with personal empowerment.

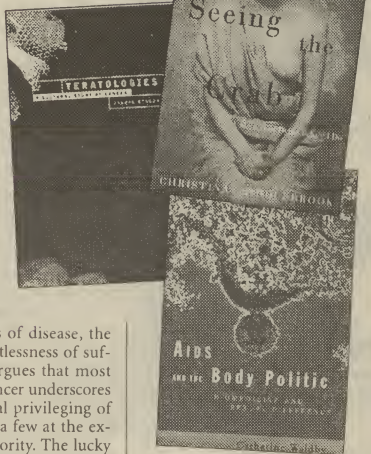
Although Stacey is an academic, her writing is mostly free of jargon, and is both readable and informative. She has powerful points to make about the ways in which the social understanding of cancer helps to support the status quo, which continues to ensure health care for the rich and brave death for the rest of us.

Catherine Waldby's *AIDS and the Body Politic* is the most dense and difficult of these books to read, owing mostly to the author's reliance on jargon to convey ideas. Still, this book is well worth the effort. Offering a feminist critique of the AIDS industry and its tendency to offer up images of straight males as the norm for all things bright and beautiful, Waldby argues that public health warnings target women and gay men as risk categories. "As the only group exempted from direct address by public health discourse, [heterosexual men] are freed from internalizing the idea of their bodies as dangerous or infectious. ... Heterosexual men are thus allowed to maintain the (imaginary) position of the clean who are threatened by infection from below."

Waldby's analysis of the HIV antibody test and its reliance on perceived risk factors to determine the outcome of tests, is particular-

ly astute. AIDS offers the heterosexual male an opportunity to reaffirm his status as top dog, a position that has been challenged by both feminists and queer theorists. Waldby argues conclusively that the biomedical establishment has seized this occasion to the detriment of the rest of us.

Health care, we learned from the debacle of the Clinton Health Plan, is a political topic. What many of us considered a right is in fact a privilege of the few, paid for by the suffering of the many. Reading these three fine books will provide the ammunition you need to start writing angry letters to Congress and demanding the right to health care. ▼



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Designed By Billy Raby

Drama queens

◀ page 35

out gay male computer nerd, but it has also run several unsavory gay storylines.

Other encodettes include the lesbian doctor on *ER*, who has stated repeatedly that she doesn't do men, but hasn't received her own storyline, and Alex (Robbi Chong) on *Poltergeist*. On *Melrose Place* there was nice guy Matt (Doug Savant), who, as the only gay man in history who couldn't get laid, might as well have stayed encoded. (He's been replaced by psychotic lesbian Connie, played by Megan Ward, late of the excellent UFO series *Dark Skies*.) My personal fave, *Buffy, the Vampire Slayer*, exudes high camp and serious affect, but, alas, lacks queer characters, though Willow must eventually recognize her true lesbian identity.

For sci-fi heads — and beyond the increasingly tedious and ungay *X-Files* I am not a sci-fi kind of gal — there is the character on *Star Trek Voyager*, post-android Seven of Nine, an encoded lesbian cut from the *Xena, Warrior Princess* cum *Wonder Woman* cloth. Played by the impossibly statuesque Jeri Ryan, late of *Dark Skies*, this is the woman of Captain Kathryn Janeway's (Kate Mulgrew) transplanetary (or transpecial) dreams. All permutations of *Star Trek* are so queer-encoded it amazes me that straight people haven't caught on. But then most straight folks don't know about Rosie O'Donnell either.

Xena, Warrior Princess stars six-foot New Zealand opera singer Lucy Lawless as the girl with many skills (though a diverse wardrobe is not one of them). With her femmey side-kick Gabrielle and blonde nemesis Calisto, Xena has become the biggest lesbian cult figure since Jodie Foster. A sort of Joan of Arc-meets-Batman superhero, she fights her way through one ludicrous episode after another. The only heterosexuals who don't know Xena is a big dyke (despite numerous appearances on Rosie O'Donnell's show) are teenage boys and their older, keg-wielding



Lucy Lawless in all her Xena-ness.

counterparts.

The boy version of this show is *Hercules*. Though attempts have been made to make Hercules appear hetero-manly, Hercules could easily play bottom to Fabio (and could share the same support bra).

Finally, there is one out, unencoded, thoroughly positive queer character on a television drama: Kevin on the Emmy-winning soap opera *All My Children*. His storyline, though currently on the back burner, has been honest, well-written, well-acted, believable, and instead of happening on the peripheries of the show, has included many of the other characters. Another soap, *One Life to Live*, has a marginal character, Wendy, who is a black transvestite (or transsexual; it's unclear which). We hope to see more of Wendy, who always appears Jackie Kennedy-chic and has none of that nasty, murderous baggage that made Marion (Frank Beatty) on *Guiding Light* so unpleasant. For those who want to see an out lesbian — on daytime TV, it's slimpickins. My pick for the one woman most likely to eventually come out as queer must be Lucinda Walsh (the incomparable Elizabeth Hubbard) of *As the World Turns*, a corporate dyke of the first order with attitude to spare. No man has met her match yet. The female touch may be just what she needs. Just ask Xena. ▼

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BOOKS

Sports illustrated

by Jim Van Buskirk

Jocks: True Stories of America's Gay Male Athletes by Dan Woog; Alyson Publications, \$12.95

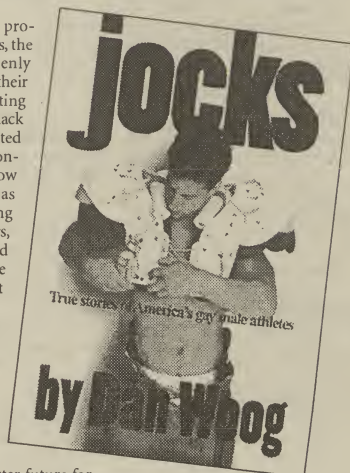
The hunky young man suiting up in football gear on the cover of *Jocks* is obviously intended to appeal to gay men's locker-room fantasies. The sex appeal here may be misleading, for *Jocks* is a sensitive and serious look at an arena of homophobia heretofore underexplored: high school and college sports.

Woog's commitment to addressing this important problem is more than admirable; it might well save lives. Woog is an openly gay athlete, an award-winning soccer coach, and the author of *School's Out: The Impact of Gay and Lesbian Issues on America's Schools* (Alyson, 1995). From dozens of interviews conducted with male high school and college coaches and athletes in the fields of wrestling, hockey, football, swimming, tennis, running, and other athletics, Woog has brought together between these covers 25 personal profiles which dispute the contention that "gay jock" is an oxymoron. (Sorry, gals, I guess the dyke version is still to come.)

With humor and self-awareness, these courageous stories succinctly and sensitively dispel many stereotypes as they effectively evoke the triumphs and heart-breaking disappointments of lives affected by homophobia in sports. In various stages of their careers,

their coming-out processes, and their lives, the athletes speak openly and honestly about their experiences, reiterating how destructive the lack of support for closeted players can be. A concurrent theme is how gay coaches can act as role models working with parents, teachers, other coaches and students to promote a safe environment for all players.

This eye-opening view into the complicated dynamics of sports provides an important opportunity to learn from past experiences to create a better future for today's youth. ▼



Crowd pleasers

◀ page 38

porary music, St. Clair presented three mainstream works that would have made a better program for music-appreciation students on a field trip. The program was safe and safely presented. Cellist Michael Grebanier and youthful violinist Chee-Yun performed the Brahms Concerto in A Minor for Violin and Cello. They made an unlikely couple visually, but blended surprisingly well.

The concert opened with a

demonstrative performance of the Symphony No. 49, *La passione*, by Haydn. SF Symphony pianist Robin Sutherland provided a tasteful continuo contribution from the harpsichord.

Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4, *The Italian*, concluded the program. Though St. Clair's beat was imprecise, it hardly mattered: the musicians could clearly perform the piece in their sleep and were obviously not making much eye contact anyway.

This week, Neeme Jarvi appeases the masses with music by Rimsky-Korsakov and Tchaikovsky. ▼

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EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend Feb. 12-16

The Bears of San Francisco and the Inter-Club Fund have events going all weekend. Read column for details.

In New Orleans, the Pantheon of Leather Awards and the Mr./Ms. Olympus Contest by The Leather Journal. Lots of our people are nominated. Good luck!

Thursday, Feb. 12

Mr. March on the 1999 Bare Chest Calendar will be chosen tonight at 2200 at the Powerhouse. Win \$100, fame, fortune - an easy way to help the AEF.

Friday, Feb. 13

The Sling has a cigar and play party with doors open 2200-2400 at 926 Natoma for \$12. BYOB. For more information, call 985-7085.

Beartoonist Fran Frisch and Bulk Male Magazine co-host the unveiling of the magazine's new mascot at Moby Dick, 1600-2000. Reception for the artist and a Bulk Male Boxer Shorts Contest. Door prizes. Fun! Bears! Cruising!

Saturday, Feb. 14

Vote for emperor and empress: 1500-1900 at the Eagle, 1000-1830 at the Embassy Lounge, 0930-2130 at the Leather Zone.

Inter-Club Fund Motorcycle Awards at the Russian Center, followed by a champagne victory party at the Eagle after the awards.

The Ring's hands-on workshop, 1400-1600. Subject: "Quick Release Rope Bondage," \$5. Call 437-0883 for location or e-mail: the_ring@ix.net.com. Not a sex party.

Leather Elegance Valentine Ball at the Driftwood Lounge in Hayward. Tickets are \$15 advance or \$20 door. For more information, e-mail: Jvonn@aol.com.

Sunday, Feb. 15

BarBust at the Loading Dock. Only \$7 (\$2 goes to the AEF and the Stop AIDS Project), which entitles you to four well cocktails, domestic beer or soft drinks, 1600-1900. Sounds like a great deal to me! Wear leather!

Jito presents a Valentine's/Presidents' Day dance party to benefit LYRIC at 715 Harrison, 2100 till whenever! Tickets are \$15 advance (at Body, Citizen, Undercover and Mainline Gifts). Call 552-5900 or e-mail: Jito@sirius.com. Hi, David! Are you really entering IML?

Golden Gate Guards Victory Brunch at Margie's (1338 Polk St.), 1100-1400, \$17. Join winners and losers in celebration of the awards ceremony! International Mr. Bear Contest at the GiftCenter (8th and Brannan). Dinner at 1800; contest at 2000. No tickets available at the door! Buy yours early!

Monday, Feb. 16

Bears of SF brunch and auction, 1100-1300, at the Eagle. Followed by a farewell party at the Lone Star Saloon, 1400-1800.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

Mr. Daddy's Leather contest emceed by Lenny Broberg. Applications available now! Win \$300 and a Daddy's leather title vest. Live entertainment by Linda Imperial. Call 621-8547 if you have any questions!

Leathermen's Discussion Group at 1930. Subject: "Fetish Night." Call 626-3747 for location. Hey, it's free. Leather wear is absolutely encouraged.

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. Clothes check mandatory. Doors open 2030 to 2300 only. For more information, call 863-HEAD.



The popular Bearatones perform at the International Mr. Bear Contest on Sunday night, Feb. 15, at the GiftCenter.

Bears! Oh my!

◀ page 1

at a meet and greet at the Eagle beginning at 2300. On Saturday, Feb. 14 (Valentine's Day), there's a beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1500 to 1800, when late arrivals can join all the other delegates.

Of course, there are a lot of non-public events (i.e., "play parties") going on as well, and a bear store will be open at the host hotel, the Ramada Hotel Civic Center on Market, where you can buy souvenirs and other bearmalia.

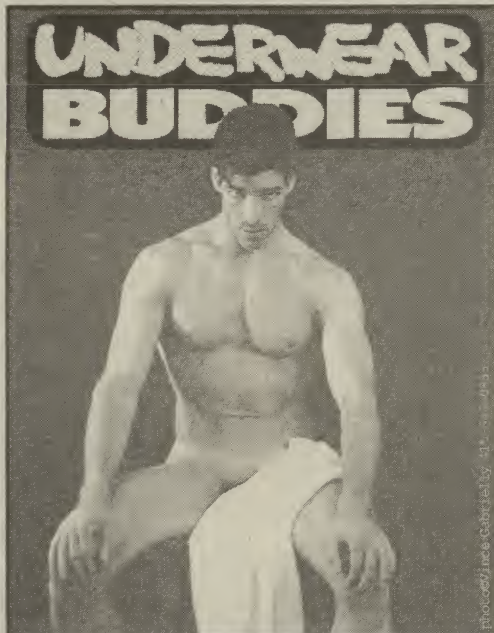
On Sunday, Feb. 15, the competition for the International Mr. Bear title begins at 2000 after a sumptuous banquet (sold out!) at the GiftCenter Pavilion (888 Brannan at 8th). The competition starts at 2000, and by midnight, we'll know who succeeds Jim Parton! On Monday, Feb. 16, there will be a brunch and an auction at the Eagle, 1030 to 1300, followed by a farewell party at the Lone Star, 1400-1600.

Absolutely no tickets will be sold at the door for the IMB contest; however, the \$15 tickets are available now at the Leather Zone (2352 Market), The Bear Store (367 9th St.) and the BOSF store at the host hotel. Don't miss this major event! Good luck to all the contestants.

Nuts and bolts

In conjunction with the ICF Motorcycle Awards, the first event of the weekend is the Constantines MC's annual Mix 'n' Match beer/soda bust at the Eagle on Friday, Feb. 13, 2000-2300, \$6. Match the nut or bolt you get with someone else's. Charlie Pacheco and Donna Sachet will entertain.

On the other side of town, the 32nd Annual ICF Motorcycle Awards show will take place at the Russian Center (Sutter and Divisadero) on Saturday night, Feb. 14, with a dinner by Chef Andy Rose at 1800. The show begins at 2000, and the \$20 tickets are available in advance at Copy Mat (2370 Market), Daddy's, Eagle, Image Leather, Leather Zone,



Wednesday, February 18
door 8:30-11 only
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WHITE RUSSIAN

Mister S and Stompers.

Immediately following the awards ceremony, the GDIs will throw a champagne victory party at the Eagle. On Sunday, the Golden Gate Guards MC hosts a victory brunch at a new venue, Margie's (1338 Polk St. at Pine), \$17. Tickets are available at the awards ceremony on Saturday night.

The same again

The Inter-Club Fund finally caught up with me on the election of its new officers for 1998; there are no changes! The entire board of directors was re-elected by unanimous vote: president, Tommy Thomas (Phoenix U/C); corresponding secretary, Jason Fontaine (Golden Gate Guards); recording secretary, David Meyer (Independent); and treasurer, Bill Hollabaugh (Cal Eagles). Hopefully, their second terms will be as successful as their first ones!

The Cal Eagles MC celebrated its 14th anniversary last Saturday night on the Eagle patio. The rain deluge in no way hampered the party because two canopy tents were erected to keep celebrants dry. Some 140 people registered at the door to graze on food by Harvey's and meet the new officers: president, Peter Haase; vice president, Ken Kalstein; road captain, Morris Lyons; treasurer, Bill Hollabaugh; recording secretary, Ed Kleppinger; and corresponding secretary, the mighty Alden Spafford. Congratulations to everyone, especially those who received Certificates of Christening for having their bikes baptized on the Cal Eagles' run last year!

Late last year, I told you that International Mr. Leather Inc. commissioned Gary Aldrich to compose a leather anthem to be premiered at the contest in Chicago next May. You'll be glad to know that Gary has been hard at work and the leather anthem is now in its final form. He has made a concerted effort to make the anthem easy to sing, easy to remember, and accessible. He realizes there will be detractors, but you cannot please everyone. Thanks to those of you who sent your suggestions to Gary after reading about him here. Be at IML in the Windy City in May to witness another milestone!

Speaking of Chicago, Daniel Premack, the International Mr. Leather den boy, is looking for anyone who ever competed in the contest for a big reunion. Contact him at IML Inc., 5015 North Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640. You can fax him at (773) 878-5184 or e-mail: IMLDenBoy@aol.com.

And you may recall that in 1997, our own "Driller" won the International Boot Black title. He will be passing his sash at IML. If you're thinking of entering the boot black competition, please contact Marc Paeurye at (773) 561-3974 or e-mail: TopSM-Cub@aol.com.

Brett Chatelain has been named the "Dockmaster" for the Loading Dock bar (just a few steps South of Market). Given his responsibilities for general promotions and press relations, he wants you to know that their dress code will continue.

To gain entry, you must be attired in either leather, latex, uniforms, rubber or 501s with black boots. They have established a standard for the bar, and they stand by it. If you haven't seen their hot new T-shirts, check them out!

The weather settled down a bit on Sunday, so Leather Daddy's Boy David Meyer's beer/soda bust at the Eagle enjoyed success. Everyone was out and about, laying their traps, swilling suds and raising hell. Great weekend! ▼

Candy-coated kisses

by Sweet Lips

This year, Valentine's Day follows on the heels of Friday the 13th. Sort of scary. The last time this happened, someone gave me a dozen roses fashioned from barbed wire. They never did give off much of a scent; on the other hand, they never wilted, either. They certainly beat the Ex-Lax candy kisses some prankster sent me in the mail. Well, they tasted good at least, and I did lose a few pounds.

Anyway, things will be jumping at ye olde Polk Rendezvous (1303 Polk) this weekend. First there's the Friday the 13th Part One party tomorrow, and on Saturday, it's our own special Valentine Day's Affair, an all-day event with David Kapp's Cajun cuisine and \$50 prizes for the best mask and best costume. Yes, yours truly and the cuddly John Pearson will be on the plank taking care of your heart's desires.

On Friday, Feb. 20, at the Giraffe (1131 Polk), pomp and circumstance will be the order of the

day at a gala cocktail reception (5:30-8:30 p.m.) at this august establishment. The soiree will be honoring the 25th anniversary of the reign of Empress Maxine, the 20th of Empress Char, the 15th of Empress Connie, and the 10th of Emperor Steve Rascher. Come and celebrate the contributions of these four lovely members of our royal family.

Rumor has it that full-figured gal Greta Grass was trying on a tube top in a Plump and Pretty store in Orinda when a voice yelled out from the stock room, "Hey, plump is downstairs!" Hope you're feeling better, Greta.

Sorry to hear about the recent death of Freddie Lavre - dear, sweet, ditzy, friendly "Frieda." Freddie was one hell of a chef during the golden years of San Francisco's gay restaurants. We'll miss you, Frieda.

The smart money's on Susie Cartwright for Empress. Whatever your preferences, don't forget to

vote Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Leather Zone (9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.) or the Embassy Lounge (10 a.m.-6:30 p.m.) or the Eagle (3-7 p.m.)

The coronation's the next Saturday, Feb. 21, at the GiftCenter Pavilion (888 Brannan at 8th), starting at 6 p.m. The 33rd Coronation Ball, hosted by the Imperial Council, Emperor Jacques Michaels and Empress Veronda Lanai, and the Full Moon Court of Gothic Glamour, promises to be a smashing success. This year's theme is "Realms of Fantasy Where Legends and Myths Become One."

That same day at 10 a.m. at the PR, don't miss the big Portland party, where Emperor Steve Rascher will be announcing the new Emperor and Empress of Alcatraz. (Yes, Dolly Dale was Emperor, and I was Empress a few years back.) The Holiday Inn at Van Ness and Pine is the host hotel for the coronation, so you know there'll be lots of tiaras, se-



Lips and Greta: together again.

quins, and scepters sparkling in the Polk Street bars that Saturday night (and being up swept up that Sunday morning).

Since Fat Tuesday falls on the 24th this year, expect tons of Mardi Gras celebrations going on up and down the Polkstrasse until Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25. Grab a piece of king cake and hope you don't get the baby! Pretend you're at Pat O'Brien's in the Vieux Carré and have a couple of hurricanes on me!

Kudos to Mr. Kenny Allison on his new job! He's now the manager of the Giraffe, so look for a lot more excitement there!

That hirsute haven, the Lone Star Saloon (1354 Harrison), has a new "totally covered patio" (bears don't like the rain!), which will come in handy during these "wet and wild" times. According to all accounts, the smokers are much happier. Good work, Jerry! ▼

Cocktail Hour

MR. DADDY'S LEATHER 1998 CONTEST

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH • 9PM

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Monday, February 23rd • 8pm

Music by Dixieland Dykes Plus Three

Tuesday, February 24th • 8pm

Musical Entertainment with David Kelsey - keyboard & Doug Weeds - drums

Costume Contest • 10pm

Cash Prizes:

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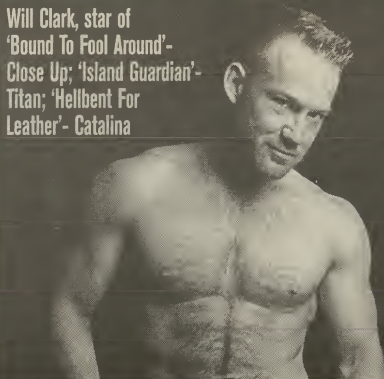
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Grand Prize:
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Will Clark, star of
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'Close Up'; 'Island Guardian'-
Titan; 'Hellbent For
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Winter Night
at DADDY'S

Saturday, February 28th 7pm-10pm

Join Will Clark, Mr. Northeast Drummer '97 as he hosts a hot evening of sex, sensuality and sin! Join Will and his video star guests.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Decorative arts gallery

Getty-up!

We come to praise the beautiful Getty, and we don't mean Balthazar. The J. Paul Getty Museum, the centerpiece to the Richard Meier-designed Getty Center in Los Angeles, is both a newly-minted cultural shrine and total media phenomenon. *Calendare* made a rare visit to the Southland to see what all the hype is about.

The best parts of the Getty Museum are the new urban public spaces it creates—an amenity L.A., the ultimate disembodied city, sorely lacks. The entrance hall begins a stately procession into the museum which makes good use of both indoor and outdoor space, and the music of water plashing. The galleries are intelligently divided: paintings are installed on the upper level, the decorative arts on the courtyard level. The result is that you are never more than a few steps away from the outside, with its spectacular vistas of mountains and ocean.

Meier's elegant white classical modernism is nicely set off by entire walls of unpolished Travertine marble cut into squares, which make some elevations look like Jerusalem. The Getty complex, which also includes a research institute and library, as well as offices for art conservation and grants programs, is a formidable achievement. In many ways, the architecture and siting of the museum threaten to upstage the art collection it houses. But with the Getty's mega-endowment, expect that to change. Even now, we have a rare opportunity to see beautiful installations of medieval illuminated manuscripts, classical antiquities, a sublime Bruegel the Elder, and a ravishing Titian oil of Venus trying to entice Adonis away from his fatal hunting trip.

Last but not least, admission is free, as all museums should be. Parking spaces cost \$5; reservations are required, and book up far in advance. But you can take a cab, bike or bus right to the gates of the Getty. Call 800-266-6883 for transit info; for parking reservations, call (310) 440-7300. ▼

Performer/juggler/comic Sara Felder in *June Bride (Just a Traditional Jewish Lesbian Wedding)* at A Traveling Jewish Theatre. See Thursday.



Fri 13

Blood on the Cat's Neck

Theater Rhubarb presents a play by Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Fri.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/14. \$8-10. Exit Theater Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 751-0439.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical revue: Broadway standards, turned naughty. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm extended thru 3/1. \$16-22. New Conservatory Theater, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

En Drag

Female impersonators revue, hosted by Sexilya Luvsat. \$10. 9, 10 & 11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

I Love Lezzie

Comedy revue features Peggy Critz, Susan Dambroff, more. Fri.-Sat. & 2/15 at 8pm thru 2/21. \$11-15. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. 863-2989.

Late Night Live

Comedy talk show; hosts David Mills, Bridget Schwartz. Tonight: "Axe Your Ex," Tom Ammiano, Idris Ackamoor, Rhodessa Jones \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

The Maids

Jean Genet's play, directed by Joshua Marchesi, part of the Absurdist season. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 2/14. \$12. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

Nora

Aurora Theatre Co. presents Ingmar Bergman's adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/1. \$18-25. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant, Berkeley. (510) 843-4822.

Why Maybe Is...

The Saddest Word I Know, a multimedia solo performance by Sara Seiberg. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$7-10. Starcleaners, 18 Sycamore. 861-6386.

Sat 14

The Bearatones/SF

Bear-identified vocal quartet appear at soda/beer bust. 4 & 5pm. SF Eagle, 398 12th St.

Ex-Lovers

Scott O'Hara's surreal musical romance, with music by Tom Phillips. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 2/14. \$12-22. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Ferron

Valentine's concert, followed by butch/fem dance. Semi-formal creative wear. \$15 advance, \$18 door. 8pm. Brady Street Dance Center. 522-8793.

Golden Gate Wrestlers

Sell and sign their calendar as Gay Games V fundraiser. 11am-2pm. Raven Gallery, 2187 Market. 821-2991.

Hole-in-the-Wall-a-Palooza

5 local bands, incl. Freedom Rockers, ing. No cover. 8pm. SF Eagle, 398 12th St. 626-0880.

Kinky Karnival

Adult vendor booths, leather craftspeople. \$5. 1-5pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida.

New Century Chamber Orchestra

15-piece string chamber orchestra performs concert with Argentine theme. \$24.50. 8pm. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

chestra performs concert with Argentine theme. \$24.50. 8pm. Herbst Theater, 401 Van Ness. 392-4400.

Performance Music

Rhodesa Jones, Idris Ackamoor perform, part of Cultural Odyssey's African American Performance Series. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Rhapsodies in Black:

Art of the Harlem Renaissance multimedia exhibition, thru 3/8. \$7 + \$2.50 surcharge. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave. & Clement. 863-3330.

San Francisco Magic

Magicians from the SF Conjurers Club perform. Saturdays at 8pm thru 2/28. \$13 + \$2 min/m. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

Saturday Night

Gay comedy Suzy Berger, Karen Ripley, Bob McIntyre. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Sex Tour

8th annual SF Zoo Valentine's Day Sex Tour: frank talk about animal sex. Sat. & Sun. at 9am & 3pm thru 2/22. \$35. SF Zoo. 753-7165.

Songs from the Heart

Cabaret entertainment. Dinner & show; 6:30pm, \$20;

show, \$10, 8pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

Sun 15

Afterstock

Dance club, benefits Lyric (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center). \$15 advance, \$20 door. 9pm. 715 Harrison. 552-5900.

Evelyn

Champagne King

Dance diva appears at gay dance club. \$8. 9pm-6am. Pleasuredome, 177 Townsend. 974-6020.

Joy Ride

Campo Santo presents Greg Sarris' play: three mixed-race Portuguese brothers. Thurs.-Sun. at 8pm thru 3/1. \$9-14. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia. 626-3311.

Live Jazz

Free admission, 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Maury Loomis

Brings movies to the G40+ Club, free. 2pm. First Unitarian, 1187 Franklin. 552-1997.

Sadhana Brothers

Gay men's yoga/Hindu fellowship chants, meditates. 7pm. Call for location. 647-4388.

Sweetheart's Day

Buffet, love potions. 3pm. Cinch, 1723 Polk. 776-4162.

Tristan Tavormina

Reads from *The Ultimate Guide to Anal Sex for Women*. Book, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Wayang Bali

ShadowLight Performance presents traditional Balinese shadow play, free. 3pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum. 648-4461.

Mon 16

Black Males

13 oil paintings by Sylvan Rogers, thru 3/9. Booklovers Haven, 725 Marin, Vallejo. (707) 644-8655.

Fabrications:

Bodybuildings, exhibition of architectural installations, thru 4/28. \$7. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Maureen Brownsey, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Morgan Schmidt

Photo collages of the urban ecosystem, thru Feb. Mad Magda's, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Perspectives on

Infinity
Art rendering the infinite,

incl. works by Joe Goode, Richard Misrach, Gay Outlaw, more. Mon.-Fri. thru 3/13. Transamerica Pyramid lobby, 600 Montgomery. 983-4000.

Roy DeCarava

Retrospective exhibit of works by Harlem and jazz photographer, thru 4/14. \$8. SFMO-MA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Tues 17

Eye on Viet Nam:

Images from Ho Chi Minh City photographers, curated by Lou Demattei, with photos from his *A Portrait of Viet Nam*, thru 4/10. Veterans Bldg., 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun. extended thru 4/12, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Hunter Reynolds

Display of Memorial Dress for drag persona Patina du Prey. Also: Rodney O'Neal Austin's *Now Entering Beavercreek, Ohio*; nine artists in *To Be Real*, thru 3/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

It's All True!

Film and video series challenging idea of reality. Tues.-Sun. thru 3/1. Museum admission \$5. Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

James D. Phelan

Art Award
In Photography, exhibition by winners David Berg, Kim Brown, Erin O'Neill. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/28. San Francisco Cameraclub, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

The Man Hunt:

"Dateless in San Francisco," SF AIDS Foundation's GayLife forum for gay and bi men, free, call to reserve. 6:30pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 788-LIFE.

Nocturnal Emissions

New work by Timothy Cummings, with "A Thin Line," new work by Ted Julian Arnold. Thru 2/28. Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

Picasso & Villers:

"The Diurnes Portfolio," exhibition of collaboration: photographs & paper cut-outs. Thru 3/8. \$5. Ansel Adams Ctr., 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Q-Spirit

Ruth Baetz speaks on "Communing with Nature for Health and Healing" to queer spirituality group. \$10. 7:30pm. Golden Gate MCC, 1508 Church. 281-9377.

Sol Lewitt

Wall drawings and photographs by pioneering Conceptualist, thru 2/28. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

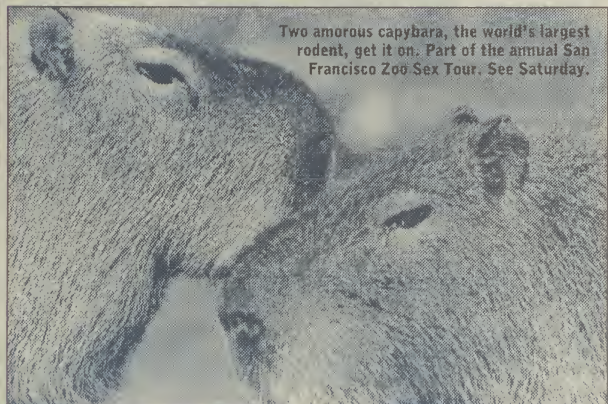
Women in Printing

And Publishing in California: 1850-1940, exhibit of pioneering women. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/18. \$3. Calif. Historical Society Mus'm, 678 Mission. 357-1848, x14.

Wed 18

Alchemy

A new multimedia work by brothers Lyle Ashton Harris and Thomas Allen Harris, thru 3/14. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.



Two amorous capybara, the world's largest rodent, get it on. Part of the annual San Francisco Zoo Sex Tour. See Saturday.

Basket of Flowers

'Victor Dupree' in cabaret written and performed by Brent St. Claire, Don Speziale; part of African American Perf. Series. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Bob Glück

Reads from Kathy Acker's work, part of "Under the Influence" series, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Defending the Caveman

Rob Becker's solo show explores the gender gap. Wed.-Sun. thru 2/22; call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$15.50-46.50. Golden Gate Theater. 776-1999.

Designs for Dance

Exhibit of costume designs and set models. Wed.-Sat. thru 5/9. Free. SF Perf. Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Essence of Style:

Chinese Furniture of the Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasties exhibit, thru 9/6. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Fetish

Group show explores relationship of artist and fetish, thru 3/6. Art Gallery, Cesar Chavez Student Ctr., SFSU. 338-2580.

Five Points of View

Contemporary basket artists, thru 3/15. SF Craft & Folk Art Museum, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 775-0991.

Gino Severini:

"Works on Paper from 1922 to 1965" and "A Futurist Footnote" exhibitions. Wed.-Sun. thru 3/22. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

How I Learned To Drive

Berkeley Rep Theatre presents Paula Vogel's off-Broadway hit. Thru 2/27, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$34.50-45. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison. (510) 845-4700.

Ikut:

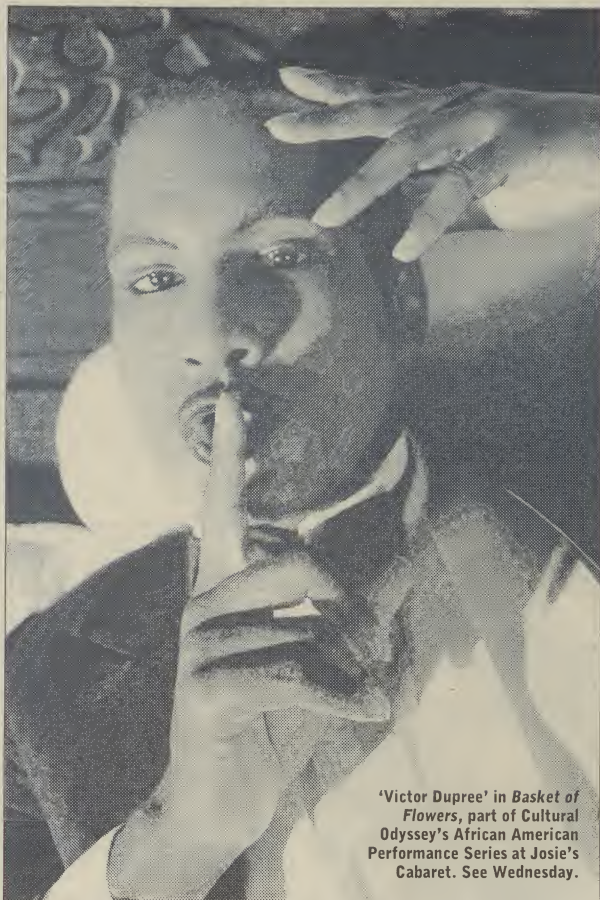
"Splendid Silks from Central Asia," exhibit thru 3/1. \$7. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Jack Sturges

New photographs, the innocence of children. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/21. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Our Gospel

Tremendous Arts Cooperative and Modus Ensemble premiere new dance/theater work. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 2/22. \$12.50-16.50. Theater Artaud, 450



'Victor Dupree' in *Basket of Flowers*, part of Cultural Odyssey's African American Performance Series at Josie's Cabaret. See Wednesday.

Florida. 621-7797.

Wings of Desire

First exhibition of *California Suite: New Art from LA*, thru 3/8. SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Wittgenstein: On Mars

George Coates' theater work. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 2/28. \$24-36. Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 392-4400.

Thur 19

Black Hose Mountain

Works by Gay Outlaw, thru 2/28. Refusalon, 20 Hawthorne. 546-0158.

Combat!

"An American Melodrama," John Fisher's play on gay men and women in the US military during WWII. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sat. at 3pm thru 3/14. \$21-24. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. 621-7797.

Come In From the Rain

David Mauriello's erotic drama: a bank clerk and a buff call boy. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/7, call for Sun. matinees. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Financial District Side Show

Sketches and solo pieces performed by Bridget Schwartz, Liz White, Bill Bernat and more. Thurs. at 8pm thru 3/5. \$8-12. 450 Geary Theatre. 673-1172.

Full Frontal Nellie

Sketch comedy by the Nellie Oleasons. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/28. \$12-17. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Happy Anniversary

Lou Reda's play: struggles of a gay relationship. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 3/8. \$15. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Ho'y Underground

Films and videos by hos, hustlers and strippers, curated by Hima B. \$5. 8pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

Ice/Car/Cage

Keith Hennessey, Jules Beckman, Jess Curtis in urban dance movement poem with 300-lb. ice block. (Raindate: 2/22) Free. 8pm. Brady Dance Studio Parking Lot betw. Gough, Market, Mission. 771-7020.

June Bride

(Just a Traditional Jewish Lesbian Wedding), Sara Felder's play, directed by Jayne Wenger. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/1. \$18. A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

The Mexternimator Project

Guillermo Gómez-Peña's interactive performance, installation. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/7. \$15-20. 8pm. SOMAR, 934 Brannan. 621-7797.

Potpourri Noire

Rhodesa Jones hosts Robert Henry Johnson, Nena St. Louis, more; part of Cultural Odyssey's African American Perf. Series. \$10. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Eric Rose
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

This Week's Dinner Specials

Grilled Atlantic Salmon with lemon-caper butter on a bed of garlic mashed potatoes with seasonal vegetables 9.75

Penne Pasta & Grilled Chicken Breast with creamy basil pesto, parmesan 8.95

N.Y. Pepper Steak with cracked black pepper & brandy-cream, with onion rings and crispy french fries 11.95

PRIME RIB au jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish 11.95

Fried Calamari with dipping sauce . 5.75

Patio Cafe

531 Castro Street, between 18th/19th
Breakfast/Lunch served from 9:00 AM
Dinner from 5:00 PM nightly

JOSIE'S CABARET AND JUICE JOINT

CULTURAL
ODYSSEY'S
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
PERFORMANCE
SERIES



FEBRUARY 13, 8PM, \$10

"POTPOURRI NOIR"

IDRIS ACKAMOR, WILL POWER, MECHELLE LACHAUX, LYNEL GARDNER, DEBORAH EDWARDS, SHARI MCCOY AND KEVIN AVERY.

FEBRUARY 14, 8PM, \$10

"PERFORMANCE MUSIC"

IDRIS ACKAMOR, RHODESSA JONES

FEBRUARY 18, 8PM \$10 VICTOR DUPREE in "BASKET OF FLOWERS:"

FEBRUARY 19, 8PM, \$10 "POTPOURRI NOIR" with RHODESSA JONES, ROBERT HENRY JOHNSON, AMMA, THOMAS SIMPSON AND NENA ST. LOUIS

FEBRUARY 15, 8PM LIVE JAZZ with ALEX WEISS TRIO - FREE ADMISSION

SATURDAY NIGHT GAY COMEDY - 10PM, \$10

FEB 14: SUZY BERGER, KAREN RIPLEY, BOB McINTYRE

LATE NIGHT LIVE EVERY FRIDAY - 10PM \$8

SAN FRANCISCO'S LATE NIGHT COMEDY TALK SHOW ALTERNATIVE
with DAVID MILLS and BRIDGET SCHWARTZ
S.F. SUPERVISOR TOM AMMIANO
PERFORMANCE ARTISTS IDRIS ACKAMOR, RHODESSA JONES, ANDREA LEIGH

3583 16TH STREET AT MARKET RESERVATIONS: (415) 861-7933



Send \$3 For Our Catalogue

IMAGE LEATHER

2199 Market Street
San Francisco CA 94114

EXTENDED!

February 12
thru March 8

Infidelity

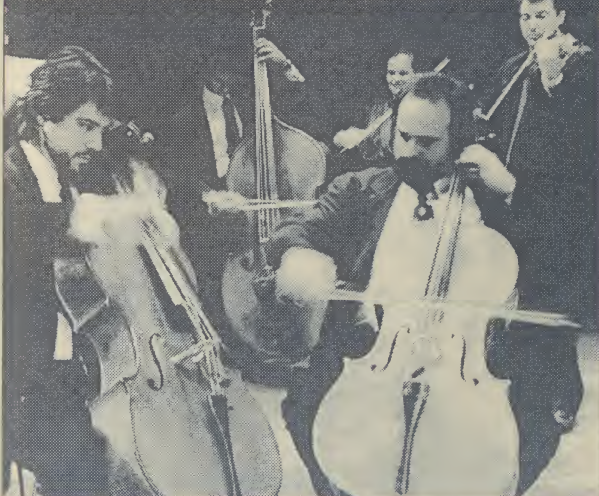
Love

Comedy

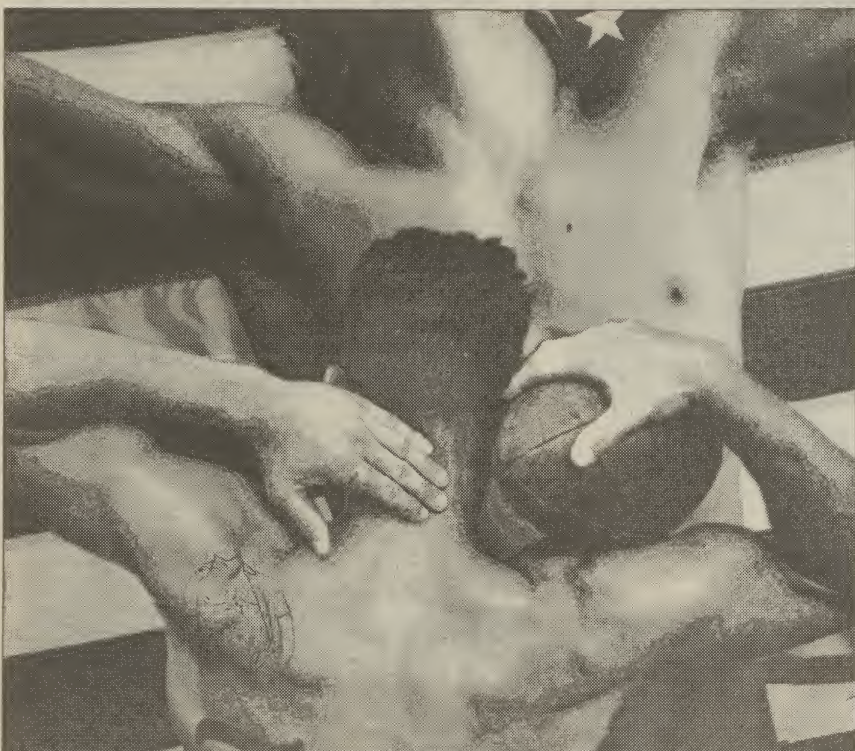
Happy Anniversary

Thurs, Fri, & Sat @ 8:30, Sunday @ 7:30. Tickets \$15
At the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros: 2926 16th St, San Francisco
For Information and Reservations call: 415-861-5079

The New Century Chamber Orchestra presents a concert with an Argentine theme, Saturday night at Herbst Theater. See listing.



BARTALK



Steven Underhill

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Only 98¢ per minute to respond to ads!
Available only on touch-tone phones in the Bay Area. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

PARTING GLANCES

Tim: Eros, Sat Jan. 17
You: Tattooed back from Hayes Valley. Me: Latino guy with cropped black hair from downtown. You wanted to take me home. I'm interested. ☎ 9901

Sat Jan 17-Castro sidewalk 1:00
We looked, I turned, we smiled. You: waiting at Chevron gas, tan pants, white shirt, sweater, great smile. Me: w/ friend, jeans, blue jacket, sunglasses, shy! Let's talk, meet! ☎ 9902

Tony, Folsom St. bookstore
Mon, 5PM. You: tank top, leather jacket. Me: shirt and tie. Both really nice dicks. Glory hole then booth. I came while sucking your dick. Let's play some more. ☎ 9903

New Year's Eve in Palm Springs
You from SF, me from Monterey. Spoke of resolutions at Amnesia. You stayed at El Mira Sol. Call me. ☎ 9904

Black Lab on N Judah
Tue, 1-6, you and your black Lab were on the N Judah. We talked and I foolishly got off at Van Ness. ☎ 9905

Hassan at "My Place" Friday 1/2
We closed My Place with passion, long probing kisses, and body play. More kissing outside. I'm still no masochist but your energy is delightful. I'd love to play again, if... ☎ 9906

Victor from L.A. Jan 4th Sun.
Spoke at Lonestar, had great time just talking. Left with my friend on his bike giving me a lift, next time in town call. ☎ 1001

Michael @ Campton Place 1/24
Met before my blind date over lemon-drops. Wanted to go out with YOU. Call me and let's cook together. James ☎ 1002

Chinese cultural center Th 1/22
Interested in Chinese culture & more? Last on elevator, then opened door for you. Gentleman in black coat too shy and polite to approach you in public. Please call. ☎ 1004

Chows cannoli Thurs 1/22
Sitting by kitchen, you with a friend, me with one. You shared your cannoli with me and I apple pie with you. Would like to meet you. ☎ 1005

Germania St Sat 1/31
You: walking black dog. Me: standing at balcony door on phone. You watched, came back, said "hi." Couldn't get off the phone fast enough. Want to meet you and your dog. ☎ 1101

Rob 1/17/98 WF Bank n' Mkt.
Our puppies became friends while we talked. Sorry I had to dash. Should have gotten your number or a date-Billy. ☎ 1006

EmeryGoRound Commuter
I think I accidentally erased your message before listening to it. Try again? Please? ☎ 1007

Rob Eros Fri Dec 26
You: dark hair, goatee, 30's, top. Me: Jim, dark hair, stocky, hairy chest. We connected upstairs then smiled in the shower. Round 2? Please. ☎ 1008

Black butterfly tattoo-Folsom
Sun. 1/18. You: nice body, great kisser. I believe this was our second time. Me: shy glack guy. Let's get together in a more private space. ☎ 1009

Too cute to talk to
"My Place". Your earlier frolic caught me off-guard. My loss! How about 2nd chance? I would like to thank you routinely. ☎ 1010

Motorcycle escort my blk. jeep
1/30/98 7:00pm. You: motorcycle, leather jacket, white/silver helmet at 80FA. Stopped by my jeep at Market, played eye tag thru my mirror. You turned on Duboce, should have followed. ☎ 1102

Vince-I&S from Hawaii
Castro Street, January 31, Sat. We walked from 18th to 17th. I was distracted by many responsibilities that afternoon. Wish I'd given you my number. Please call, Randy. ☎ 1103

Patrick at CCSF Gay Studies
We met in Washington D.C. Jan 18 at MAL. I'll be in SF mid-Feb; really want to see you again! ☎ 1003

Mitchell - Jury duty SF 1/27
I was the older man, the row behind you-lots of eye contact but you were called out first. Liked what I saw including tattoo. If you did too please call. ☎ 1104

New Years Eve-Folsom
You: tall, slim, long hair, glasses, 20ish. Us: Beards, biker jackets, leaving My Place @ closing time. Took you to Mack. Want more? We do! ☎ 1105

Thurs. Jan 29. Downtown
ForeKarma! Saw each other on Kearny. We both looked. Later at Cafe Flore. Karma? You: blue coat, tan pants, beautiful eyes. Me: jeans, black jacket. Do you believe? If so, call. ☎ 1105

Sat 1/24 At the Metro
You were sitting against the mirrored wall talking to an older friend. I was at the bar. We smiled, stared at each other, nodded, and winked. Lets meet! ☎ 1110

Brunch Port Cafe Sat 1/10
You: Tall dark, fit, Hardbutt, tight shorts. Me: Blonde, slim, blue eyes. How about next Sat? ☎ 1106

Mecca Sunday Night 1/18/98
Me: Leather jacket, white shirt, blue jeans, goatee, cute! Rode train to W. Oak was too shy to follow you off the train. Would like to connect definitely! ☎ 1108

Bart Embarcadero tue. 1/27 930p
You: dark jeans, flat top or crew cut with friend. Me: blue jeans, short hair with friend. Lots of smiling, then you left - U R cute! Call me. ☎ 1111

Erik from Santa Cruz
I met you late saturday night (1/24) in Lighthouse park. I was wearing a ski jacket and you liked my name. I want to see you again. ☎ 1109

Fri-1/23 At Moby Dick Bar
You: dark jeans, flat top or crew cut with friend. Me: blue jeans, short hair with friend. Lots of smiling, then you left - U R cute! Call me. ☎ 1111

Starbuck's - Noe-24th tues. 1/27
6:30 A.M. You: Cute guy driving red SUV. Me: Flight att in white jeep. What a smile. Lets do coffee. ☎ 1112

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Gd/kng masculine cigar smoker
Easy going, friendly, professional, 38, 6'4, 185, beard, HIV+. Seeking similar, top or versatile, masculine cigar-smokers over 30, affectionate and enjoy vanilla to kink. Facial hair a+. ☎ 9907

Cub seeks poz bear daddy
Cute, GWM, 45, 5'7, 165, beard, bottom, HIV+ and healthy, seeks older husky, hair, strict daddy bear. Like spanking and rough sex, drinking buddy on weekends and over 200# a must. ☎ 9908

Daddy top
5'8, 165#, Nordic white beard oversized swant 150 Mediterranean beard bottom companion. HIV+, E. Bay, Hairy a+. ☎ 9909

Handsome muscular Italian
GWM, 6'2, 185#, 38, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV+ extremely well-hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 9910

Free Spirit
GWM, 33, HIV+, positive attitude, attractive, outgoing, healthy mind, body and spirit. into: nature, walks, love animals, tennis, beaches, movies, camping. You: HIV+, 25-35, healthy, attractive, top, versatile, love outdoors, humor. ☎ 9911

Fun-loving mentor
Looking for GWM professional, 28-44, who enjoys older men. "Been around the block" GWM professional, 50ish, educated, travelled, social character, smoker and healthy. ☎ 9912

European SWM
Mid 30's, tall and slim, br/br, fit and healthy professional, into hiking, movies, books and much more. Looking for partner with similar interests for friendship, dating, open to LTR. ☎ 9913

Hugs and kisses come first
My aims hold what the world lacks. Me: attractive, GWM, top, 46, 6'5, 250, husky-stocky build, brown hair, mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attractive, GWM, 21-35, slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. Good kisser a must. ☎ 9914

Pacific Islanders young and slim
New friends sought by romantic WM, 54 (looks 40's), 5'11, 170, HIV+, NS, brown hair/eyes, handsome, clean shaven, city boy, likes cats, scuba, travel, photography. Monogamous LTR possible. ☎ 9915

Looking for LTR
Just you and me babe. Now is the time to get started a new year for you. Some quiet nights at home, good food, conversation. Me: 6'0yo, 170#, I'll fix dinner for us, you fix the rest. ☎ 9916

Seeking HIV+ something
Just you're out there. HIV+, early 30's, handsome, healthy, sexy, gym-oriented, outdoorsy, WM with fresh attitude and mind. HIV status not public. Need your commaderie, energy. Call me. ☎ 9917

Social Savvy main line has wads
ISO xprt plumm 2 deep suckers it dry on res basis. Dp/kng WM, 6', 160, br bust cut, 47, cut castiron pipe with gasket needs pro 2 clear chunky wads. Sweaty, steady work in heavy brush. Long hrs, wknds, OT. Travel req. 4 LTR. ☎ 9919

Leather and/or lace slave
Kinky, submissive GWM, mid 50s, seeks complement. Ht, Wt proportionate, looks age, ethnicity not important. Slave likes to please, has many interests. Fr active, Gr passive. ☎ 9920

Dad seeks "son"
Man, 40's, masculine yet gentle, seeks a young good looking guy, 20-40, who appreciates a nurturing mature man-inspire me!!! ☎ 9921

Good catch, good fuck, good god!
I'm still single! 5'10, 185#, 35, GWM, br/hzl, beard, good-looking, honest, straightforward, loyal, educated, talented, human, emotionally available, NS, ND, wants similar GWM/LM with facial hair. No shit. ☎ 9922

Handsome, greatshape, HIV+
GWM, healthy mind and body. Professional, honest, unaffected, self-aware, 41, 5'9, 170, brn/gm, work out, read, cook, travel, adventurous, sweet, lawdry, seeks quality man with similar attributes for fun, frolic and maybe more. ☎ 9923

HIV+ btm sks hung romantic top
Me: 6'3, 190, 42, GWM, smoker, long brn/gm stach in sexless open LTR, romantic, affectionate, hung. Seeks: 30's to 40's attractive hung real, aggressive topman for friendship, sex relationship. Be honest. Redwood City. ☎ 9924

Looking for a chaser
Me: 41, 5'10, 265, caucasian and new to SF. Love the outdoors, animals, travel. You: younger, shorter, lighter with mental, emotional maturity. Wanted: new friends. ☎ 9925

Humbolt GWM seeks Clark Kent
Me: 30, 6'2, 190#, b/n/b, masc, fit, stable, politic active, out, N2 dancing/sun/outdoors. You: GWM, 28-40, slim build, fit, Ok hair, masc., out, sim. interests, affectionate, artistic, NS/ND. ☎ 9926

Middle-Eastern Boy
Cute, 26, 5'6", 130#, seeking White Latino or European men, preferable under 5'9, height/weight proportionate. I want to meet men interested in long conversations, endless kisses, and passionate nights. ☎ 1011

No carnivores
Let's start with dinner and see where that leads. Basic mid-40s White man. More green than gay, limited free time, wants it all. ☎ 1012

Old fart, fairly trim & healthy
Would enjoy the pleasure of your company close and through the night. I'm clean and easy-going. ☎ 1013

GQguy seeks young Matt Damon
Handsome GWM, 45, 5'9, 150, in-shape, professional, willing to share safe sex, fun and travel with GWM, 18-23, HIV+ a must, Santa Cruz, San Jose, Pen. or SF. Have beach house! ☎ 1014

Seeking cub for LTR
GW big daddy bear wants a young cub at his side. Loyalty, versatility and intelligence are a plus. Must have some facial/chest hair. Under 40yrs. stocky build. LTR possible. ☎ 1015

Nice looking GAM seeks romance
GAM, 28, 5'3 1/2", handsome, smooth, educated, loves books, music, piano, movies, travel, outdoors and dining. Seeking in shape GWM, 18-23, handsome, educated for LTR. ☎ 1016

Brotherly love
GWM, 51, 5'8", 175, brn/blue, beard, HIV+ seeks loving friendship with sensual, affectionate, and horny! GWM who enjoys contact, touch, massage, hand sex. ☎ 1017

New to East Bay
GWM, 38, 6', 195, hairy and bottom looking for friends, who are easy-going, to like to have fun. ☎ 1018

GWM seeks other GWM or GAM
for friendship, possibly more. Stats: 23, 5'8", medium build, HIV-neg. You: under 35, NS, ND, good build, versatile, HIV-neg, and aggressive. I'm ready. ☎ 1019

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel, looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 1020

HIV+ East Bay top needed
HIV+ bottom, 35, 6', 185, blue/brown, healthy, cutie pie seeks top to snuggle by my fireplace in Pittsburg-LTR with dark-haired, brown-eyed smoker. ☎ 1021

Seeking Lover Man
Who I could touch, handle, rub, stroke, massage, make love to, and jack off on a regular basis. I'm a GWM, 51, 5'8", 175, brn/blu, beard, HIV-. ☎ 1113

Asian Male Seeking Friends
GAM, 38, 140, 5'7", GYM body, smooth, dining and outdoors. Seek WM 25-38 in good shape for friends/ date and more. ☎ 1114

New Arrival In San Jose
31yo Handsome GWM, funny, interesting, humorous professional, love music, movies, travel, talk & exercise, seeking similar qualities in 25-35 yo man for relationship (platonic or otherwise). Lets talk! ☎ 1115

GWM ISO Hispanic Male
You should be professional, sexual, affectionate and looking for LTR. I'm 5'7" 38, blond, blue, beard, outgoing and interesting. ☎ 1116

Tired Of Bars, Baths, Buddies?
Me too! GWM, 48, 5'10" stache, hairy pecs, great body HIV-. Smart, sexy. You: 35-55 physically, emotionally, intellectually available, sexually amebrous. Non-mainstream: EOC. Enough lonely nights me too! ☎ 1117

East Bay Poz Guy
Looking for adventures, honest, reliable, fun lover. I'm that and 41, 5'10" 170, smooth, cleanshaven, versatile. Swim, bike, read, film, theatre, music. Operators are waiting. ☎ 1118

Tired Of Sleeping Alone
This AM 30's, 5'7", 130, seeks GM under 42 for LTR. If UR attractive, muscular and intellectual, not into club scene & enjoy foreign films/mus. Pls respond. ☎ 1119

Seeking Asian Love
GWM, 43, 6'1"-185 #, brn/hzel, loving, caring kind, sincere, honest, patient, 130 slim, cleanshaven Asian guy with similar nice qualities for loving LTR. ☎ 1120

Seeking Asian top
Healthy, goodlooking 35yr GWM bottom seeks quality in-shape Asian top, 25-40. Serious only. ☎ 9918

Goodlooking GAM Seeks GWM
For LTR. Me: romantic, sincere, honest, mature, professional, 5'6" 150#, bl/br, HIV-, healthy& fun. You: GWM, 30-40, goodlooking/handsome, tall, successful, in good shape and very honest. Seeking LTR. ☎ 1121

Nice White Bottom Wanted 18-35
I'm a very handsome black stud looking for a relationship with a total bottom, must be white and a total bottom. 18-35 yrs of age only need apply. ☎ 1122

S. Bay Man ISO Amer. Born Asian
Filipino or Hawaiian men, 25-50. Prppie types are A+. I just turned 50. I'm 6'1" 195# of Danish/Swedish heritage. Call andwe can discuss details. ☎ 1123

Capable Of Showing Love?
Intelligent and interesting East Indian male, 5'11" 32, 170lb. Graves for a man who can commit to cultivating a mutual, exciting partnership, based on emotion, love and audacity. ☎ 1124

Romantic GWM
Seeks GLM soulmate. I'm 5'10", 34, br/br, 165# Fun loving, athletic and down to earth. Seeking a GLM to share my body and soul. ☎ 1125

Irish Stud Seeks Connection
Young, fit, fifty, artistic, 5'11" 185#. Seeks younger, friendly, masculine, bottom men, friendship and more. ☎ 1126

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Big, masculine guys...
Are you tired of always being on top? This masculine WM, 36, 5'9, 175, is looking to help you explore your bottom/submissive side. ☎ 9927

Leatherboy needs bully daddy
ISO: leathersdaddy for sissy-toilet into heavy pushin around, slapin, spittin, pissin, hos downs, suckin, diaperin, trainin, humiliation, bondage, public scenes in SF. ☎ 9928

Cocksucking unlimited
Slow, sensual blow jobs for well-hung, trim cauc. guys 30yo & up on basement massage table. Kick back, take or time. Blue-eyed, brunettes a+. ☎ 9929

Whip out that fat meat
Beefy 58M, 34, 200, HIV-, w/81/2"x6" dick, ISO nasty, thick-tooled guy for mutual posing/jacking. Big asses, huge nuts, self-suckers get harder-how about you? ☎ 9930

WM, 36, 6', 190, married top
seeks casual friendship. HIV-, clean, safe, U82. Curious to be rimmed. Asian, Latino, uncut all pluses. Obviously have limited availability & experience. ☎ 9931

Muscular GWM bottom SF & SJ
ISO muscular top fuckbuddy, HIV+, healthy, hot, nice smile, great pecs, legs, ass, pierced titts. Oral sex, spanking, bondage, groups-safe fun. ☎ 9932

Boy2 Men
Charming Oakland boy, HIV+, 28, 5'7, seeking financially secure, tall, masculine, cleancut, attractive man, 30-45, looking for outgoing, fun guy for enjoy evenings and weekends. ☎ 9933

Sex, Sex and more Sex!
Sexy hairy Italian stud, 45, can't get enough of the good stuff. I love to mount masculine hairy assed well-endowed men. 35-45. ☎ 9934

Hot leatherboy in top's body
ISO total leatherbottom to publicly humiliate me in bondage, hoods, diapers n' plastic pants, urinal duty, WS, serious only. ☎ 9935

Just for the sex of it
Want some? This HIV-top, who enjoys, wnts and needs it. Seeks a tight bottom that feels the same way. Not sex first-possible boyfriends or more later. ☎ 9936

Pig bottoms
Wanted for parties. Leave name, stats, qualifications, number. Will return all calls. ☎ 9937

Verboten!
Seeking young Nordic/Germanic blond Aryan with blood purity racial beliefs for J/O. Me: 40, in-shape, crypto-nationalist. Let's rewrite history. No SM, just "forbidden" brotherly love. ☎ 9938

Spring back 7-inch desired
Safe play with young, sensational Asian, 5'8, 28W, S/B/GWM, 20-30, healthy, fit, proportional, erotic, NS, ND, willing to give hand/tongue/bodywork and receive a hot blow! Discreet. Your place or mine? ☎ 9939

Black in Vallejo
Attractive, 28, 6'2, 190#, looks to be serviced. Prefer passionate hot dogs. ☎ 9940

Naked or clothed
One of us is naked, one of us is clothed, one orders, one obeys. Lean goated masculine WM 40 seeking trim masculine young guy for safe role-playing fun. ☎ 9941

Top man seeks hot young head
WM, 40's, HIV-, very masculine, in-shape, dominant top seeks submissive HIV- boy under 30 with cum hungry deep throat into older men for long sessions at your SF place. ☎ 9942

Huge nipples for your pleasure
Play with, lick & suck them. I'm 59, 6', 235#, handsome, short silver hair, trim moustache and goatee. You: real tit and nipple lover. ☎ 9943

ISO S. Bay enemate by Bi-TV
Did your mommy give you hot soapy enemas and force you to take the whole bag? 42yo, 5'11, trim and eager to relieve the times & trials. Very clean and discreet. ☎ 9944

ACT UP/Golden Gate

Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l mts, Tues, 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

ACT UP/SF

Does not accept drug company donations, committed to direct action. Contact: 1388 Haight, #218, SF 94117. 522-2907.

Acupuncture

The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

ADD Support Group

Informal support group for gays and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7993.

AIDS Benefits Counselors

Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group

For those who have lost their partner to AIDS. Thursdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21680.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit

At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund

Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project

Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems; Incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay

HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-8181.

AIDS Support Group

Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

Alternative Family Project

"We Are Family," on-going support group for gay men. Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Alzheimer's Association

Free SF support groups: 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2-3:30pm. UCSF Mt. Zion Center on Aging, 3600 Geary Blvd. (Also, groups in Spanish, Chinese) Info: 800-660-1993.

ARIS

AIDS resources, information and services of Santa Clara County, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Leather

Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail lchou415@aol.com.

Chemically Sensitive & HIV

Support group forming for those allergic to perfumes and chemicals. 922-1348.

Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services

An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every Wed. 8pm at 18th St. Services Mtg. Place (15th & Market); Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Davies Med. Center

Free classes for HIV+ people in needle-point (Tues., Wed.), exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.). Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Deaf AIDS Center

At UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics

Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the Bay Area. Info: (510) 865-2933.

Dolores Street Comm. Services

Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinic, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

Gay & Lesbian Asylum Project

Seeks volunteer to coordinate outreach to immigrants with asylum claims based on sexual orientation. Call Aaron Myers, 641-9276.

Gay/Lesbian Christian Scientists

Sharing support, insight, metaphysical science. Meets 2nd Monday of month. Info: Craig, 281-0636.

Gay Male Nudists

Podluck dinners monthly, after-hours parties, movie nights. Box 14175, SF 94114. 974-9446.

Gay Men's Meditation Group

Yoga philosophy, silent meditation, discussion of integrating sexuality with spirituality, free. Sundays, 4pm. Call 431-7575.

Gay Young Spirit

A new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club

A social group for gay/bi men 40 and over, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

HIVCare

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments, to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-in Groups

Co-ed for people with HIV. Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Programs, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Group

Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1-2:30pm. Free to SF residents. Center for Special Programs, 1700 Jackson. 292-1534.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group

Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group

18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Sitting Group

Meditation for those with HIV, caregivers, friends. Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10:30am (beginners: 10:20am). Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. Info: 863-2507.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Immune Enhancement Project

Treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Instituto Laboral de la Raza

Helps low income and unemployed workers with labor issues, union organizing, family support. 431-7522.

Laguna Honda Hospital AIDS Unit

Provides compassionate care to PWAs who are SF residents in need of 24-hour nursing care. Call 664-1580.

Lesbian/Gay Christian Scientists

Meets 2nd Monday of each month for healing, insight and support. Info: 281-0636, or (800) 280-6653.

Lesbian Social Group

For lesbians and bisexual women in Tri-Cities/So. Alameda Co. Thurs., 7pm at The Edge, 39160 State, Fremont. 790-2887.

LYRIC's After School

Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Maitri Residential Care

For people disabled by HIV requiring medical support. Call for info or to volunteer. 863-8508.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics

STD testing, treatment. HIV requiring medical support. Call 499-7804.

Meditation Sessions

For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others, free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault

Operates sexual assault hotline for men. Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Mobilization Against AIDS

Seeks volunteers to assist in planning 15th Internat'l AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Call 863-4676.

Molested Boys:

"Wounded Men, Recovery from Sexual Abuse" free audiotape. Call 552-4270.

Mothers Organizing Mothers

Working to change public attitudes and policies on AIDS. Meets 2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm. Call 922-6639 or 221-6651 for information.

Movement and Voice

Group for HIV+ Men, no experience necessary. Monday nights, 7pm. Call Paul, (510) 763-9500.

MWM

A rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Wed. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 785 Market, Suite 420. 227-0946.

New Leaf

Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

Positive Living for Us

Free weekend seminar for recently-tested HIV+. Info: Alfredo, 356-8129.

Hairy scat top

44yo masculine with dirty butt into letting other bottoms touch around a man's body, giving him a close up view. ☎ 9945

Big shaved nuts and dick (7/2X6)

ISO mutual admiration, stretching, squeezing, sucking with big dick (7+) and nutted, hot, mature (35-50), masc., single men w/ facial hair. Me: hot, 40's, hairy, masc., in-shape, 182, 815 lbs, veiny, uncult, Latin +. ☎ 9946

Serious dick milking

For horny orgasm-oriented GM who wants to slip his tool into my love paw for manual servicing. I'm 51, 5'8, 175, br/br/le, berd, HIV-. ☎ 9947

Wanted: Hot Nordic

Sexy smooth bottom, 5'8" needs fucking from hot Nord. Prefer tall (6') with nice dick, handsome and professional, between 35-55, NS, ND, aroma OK. ☎ 1022

Action? In Alameda?

Masculine but submissive bottom guy with huge front or rear holes needed by massively hung top. Warning: I'm no beauty so please no SF attitude, beepers, novices. ☎ 1023

Senior GWM

60's, 5'6", 135#, muscular gym-toned searching for any size age to obey my commands Mid Pen. Be in good shape. ☎ 1024

Older Men

GWM HIV-, 110#, 5'2, stache, 55yo, with very hot hairy like tight ass. Need cocks, hands, fingers. Also I have 7" cock and balls that need to be stretched hard. Plus I love to suck. Please be horny!! ☎ 1025

Masculine muscular Asian top

Seeks submissive muscular man, 25-45yrs of age for safe fun. Me: 36, 5'9, 173#. You: enjoy being handled and used. ☎ 1026

Soccer boy

WM, 18, 5'6, 135#, blond bottom. Great compact freckled body, very cute. Seeks older (30-60) macho muscle studs. Hairy a plus. I love to suck dick. ☎ 1027

Love to be fucked

by aggressive men for a long time on a LTR. Me: GWM, 160#, 6'2. Lay me on my stomach and penetrate me with your big, hung, wet dick. ☎ 1028

Plow this hairy Latin ass

GLM, 30, 180, 5'9, bottom, submissive and goodlooking in search of regular sex buddies. Open to all races, especially Big Black Cocks. ☎ 1029

Uncut?

WM, 40, 5'8, 140# ISO uncult male for oral play. Hispanic a ++. ☎ 1030

Slow sensual blow-jobs

for well-hung, trim, Caucasian guys 30yrs and up. Kick back on my basement massage table. No recip. Blue eyed brunettes a +. ☎ 1031

Hot rim/cum/piss action

Discreet GWM, 24, 5'3, 130, HIV-, seeking GWM under 50, HIV- with cut dick for endless mutual rimming, blowjob, WS, NS, STD free. At your place. Call me. ☎ 1032

Seeking GW, GL, GA 20-45

for cuddling, JO, oral sex, and ball work by GWP, HIV-, 45, br/bl, very hairy, 5'11, 220, balding, uncult. ☎ 1033

Suck Daddy's dick

Down on your knees, boy. Your dad's gonna grab you by the hair as he shoves his big fat 8" dick up your butt. ☎ 1034

Wanted: Big hairy firm butt

Aggressive top, hung big needs well-built WM, hairy with big firm butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 1038

Green eyes seeks brown eyes

Attractive, NS, SF GWM, 38, 175, 5'10 seeks smooth-chested Latino dude for good times, vanilla to kinky, chunky ok, facial hair shaved needs a plus. ☎ 1035

Guys do it best

Bl WM, 30, 6', 150#, br/bl, healthy, buff, hungry seeks straight/curious guys any age for expert oral service. Discreet. No reciprocation. Kick back and enjoy. East Bay location. ☎ 1036

Naked slave boy

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8114.

I can keep a secret

You have a gorgeous body and every guy assumes that you are a top, but you secretly would love to feel 9 inches of fat, juicy Black manhood pumping your rear. Sincere only. ☎ 1039

Want to play with something big?

How's 8" thick and uncult on a hot top? I am in-shape, goodlooking and seeking excited bottoms for real hot sex play. ☎ 1040

Talk, fight, struggle for top

Seeking the wild side, GWM, 50, 170, 170, HIV-, looking for wrestling, boxing, ranch dudes, very aggressive. Ethnic, East Bay, your place preferred, all answered. ☎ 1041

Feral sucking

Retired professional provides organic, nutritious, copious and healthful oral supplementation of male hormones by mouth. Nite house calls to Berkeley. ☎ 1042

Hot Young Piece wanted

Muscular, 38, 160#, 6', goodlooking, great shape, gym-toned All-American hung big seeks boys/young men thin to muscular who like to service big dicks. ☎ 1043

Piss sensation

My muscle available. My tongue will lick your piss slit and slowly riding your ball-sand bladder to explosive release. Call now. Same day/night callback. ☎ 1044

Total Service Bottom

For hot mass. GWM, masc, 5'9", 163#, smooth butt, hot mouth, deep throat to serve you. ☎ 1137

Scared Cubby Femme

ISO gentle loving older top to bring out the slutty pussy in me. 42, 5'6", 200# blonde requires STD-free safety before I let you freak me. ☎ 1128

Bury it deep

Well hung? Want to use all of it your way with a hungry bottom? 38/63/200, blonde, blue, goodlooking, in-shape, passionate, uninvited. All hung welcome to pump. ☎ 1045

Blond top, hung 8" thick

wants to fill you up! I am in-shape, handsome, hairy chest, 38yrs, insatiable have a goatee and want active willing bottoms for fun. ☎ 1046

Hot Piece Of Ass To Fuck

you are thick and have a hard, defined physique and love to get fucked, then this 6'1", 190 #, 44yo, fit, muscular huy, would love to provide you with hours of hot, steamy pleasure! ☎ 1127

Black Built Big Cocked Bro

Wanted by straight living & looking 35yo, long-haired, sexy smooth, 5'8" 150#, 30" waist 71/2x5" cut. Trimmed, bikini tan-line, I will eagerly service you. ☎ 1129

Dom Top Seeks Insatiable Bottom

Attr. 39yo. top 5'10", 170#, hairy chest strong arms & legs. Wants to work over Cauc, Asian, Latino, pig bottom under 38 smooth a +. Be horny, hungry, ready! ☎ 1130

Why Waste Time Cruising...

When you could be with me? Tall, masculine, casual, 45, in shape, gym/NS, healthy poz, balding/buzz, hung, talented mouth, video's, ISO blowblowies. Polk area a +. ☎ 1131

Here Is My Fantasy:

I lay down, naked, you walk in (door unlocked) you greedy my man hole & fuck me raw. I prefer well hung black males. ☎ 1132

Wanted: bottoms by Hot Top

GWM 31yrs, 160#, 5'11" br/blr seeks guys 25-40, thin or muscular, who like to suck and get fucked. ☎ 1134

Bottom Boy Wanted 18-35 Only

Me: Horse hung black stud, looking for a nice white bottom must like it large and a hard pounding. No exceptions no back talk, just take it hard! ☎ 1135

GAM Seeks Horny GWM

57", 130#, 35yrs, needs HIV for adventure. Tell me yours, NOW! ☎ 1136

GAM Seeking Bears

HIV-, 33yo, 5'6", 120#, professional for sincere GM. Enjoy hairy male, 35-55 for dating or more. ☎ 1138

GWM HIV- 5'2" 54yrs.

7" nice ball, has a fantasy about cecile toys or gadgets around my ball's or tight hairy little ass. I'm ready & willing & serious. Also I like sucking big cock. Age, race, unimportant, experience is. Let's connect soon. ☎ 1133

Ride My Sweet Ass

Hot, passionate & sensual bottom, sometimes versatile SGWM, br/blh, 5'11", 175#, 7" ISO, HIV+, works as You like passionate kissing, nyl play, giving & receiving head, anal, ass, long gentle fucking, age, race, unimportant. No drugs, or heavy drinking. Safe sex. I have been given a 10 in sex recently. Not looking for a LTR. Daytime or evening, 3 ways ok. ☎ 1139

Just shut-up and ride!

sincere GM. Enjoy hairy muscle pump, wants good-looking, masculine men to hunt or get pumped. Also love to get massaged & jerked off. ☎ 1140

FETISHES**Rimseat & dildo service**

Masc. att. GWM tops of 10s ISO in-shape hot hot hole to 50. Versatile a ++ but not nec. ☎ 1047

BD, FF, Toys, Shaving, CBT

Chastity, domination, control, S/M. UB boy-slate, experienced, LTR possible. No drugs/drinks. ☎ 1048

Seeks watersports leatherman

Lm, 29, masc

MUSIC

Holeinthewallapalooza!

Scoring points on name alone—by far the best riff we've seen on that tired 'Lollapalooza' thing—Holeinthewallapalooza is looking like a pretty cool little queer music fest. Featuring a slew of local up-and-comers, along with a few scene veterans, the nine-hour event takes place this Saturday, February 14, at the Eagle Tavern. Taking the stage at 7 p.m. will be **Sparrows Point** (right), a bluesy, gutsy, heavy-duty combo that rock out the way rock stars used to rock out—you know, leather pants, long hair whipping around, exaggerated stage moves, the works. And be sure to check out **Yusakuta**, a fun, scrappy, grrrl/boy punk band with screechy-cool female vocals. Also on the line-up are the **Gary & Gypsy Explosion**, **Little Deaths**, **Ing**, **New Lows**, **Freedom Rockers**, and **Gary Floyd**, former leader of the late **Sister Double Happiness**. The whole musical shindig is free, and starts at 5 p.m. The Eagle Tavern is located at 398 12th Street. For more information, call 626-0880.

—Adrian Roberts



Out There

◀ page 34

she was slathering herself in excrement and talking about photographing her internal organs with a sigmoidoscope. Finley's latest endeavor isn't anything quite that messy, but that's not to say it won't be dirty. In cooperation with SF's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and Creative Time, a New York-based arts presenter, Finley is about to launch her first telephonic performance piece, **1-900-ALL-KAREN**.

Starting Monday, February 16 (President's Day) and continuing for the next six months, Finley will record a daily message that folks can access via their phones at a mere cost of \$1.75 per minute (\$1.25 each minute thereafter). Finley's colorful obiter dicta will run the gamut, from personal reflections on motherhood and daily life to her observations on news headlines, social injustices, and the NEA, the arts agency that famously gave the artist a grant only to rescind it under political pressure from conservative politicians and religious zealots. For more information about 1-900-KAREN, visit the website at www.creativetime.org.

Karen Dior and Kathy Najimy on the set of *Veronica's Closet*.

Dior brightens dark 'Closet'

Another Karen we love is zippy genderbender **Karen Dior**, actor, singer, and drag queen extraordinaire. Dior made quite a name for herself last year as a gussied-up harlot in a string of provocative television ads for Braun razors, Bud Light, and Fox Sports. She

has also been seen on *Xena: Warrior Princess* and the short-lived TV series *Head Over Heels*.

Dior's next star turn comes Thursday, February 26 (9:30 p.m.) when she makes a guest appearance on *Veronica's Closet* as a New York performer whose impersonation of **Kirstie Alley**'s character creates all sorts of mayhem. No, it's not deep, but Dior is always entertaining.

Which is more than we can say for *Veronica's Closet*. Oh yes, at first it was cute, what with the mouthy fag secretary, **Kirstie Alley** being all coy and dizzy, and **Kathy Najimy** playing the ultimate warm and fuzzy fag-hag. But, alas, no amount of cutesy frolic, disco music, and good cheer can conceal the mind-numbing insipidity that has crept into the writing, turning what promised to be a high-energy hit show into an enervating yawn-fest. And though queers are supposed to be doing somersaults of joy over that homo character, most queens are just turning the channel. Really, at this late point in the '90s the idea of a crisp fag who wears **Hugo Boss**, keeps a clean desk, and cooks a mean vichyssoise is about as original as the glomming onto Buddhism by the marginal and disenfranchised.

Joint venture

We were stunned to death earlier this week after learning that we completely misinterpreted that important e-mail sent to us last week about **Faye Dunaway** and **Liza Minnelli**. We reported that the two Hollywood heavyweights are about to co-star in a film, but this is not the case. Faye and Liza aren't co-starring in a film, they're opening a new cafe together in Beverly Hills.

Fangs, the *boite*'s working title, will consist of favorite meals of legendary screen stars. Monday, for instance, is **Bette Davis** Night, when the *chefs de cuisine* offer up corn-beef hash with chick peas followed by a stiff bourbon and two filterless Camels. Friday is **Demi Moore** night, when the menu is reduced to wheatgrass and mashed alfalfa sprouts, and Thursday has been put aside for Shelley's Surprise, an eight-course meal culminating in **Shelley Winter**'s much-beloved five-tiered, raspberry and vanilla bundt cake.

Fangs was scheduled to open for biz later this month, only Faye and Liza are apparently having a little difficulty with Judy Night. Seems the Restaurant Permit Review Agency doesn't recognize Dexedrine or Phenobarbital as adequate sources of nourishment. Of course, you'd think Faye and Liza would know that. ▼

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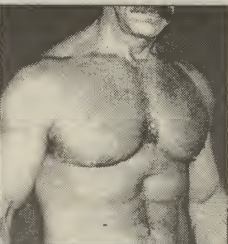
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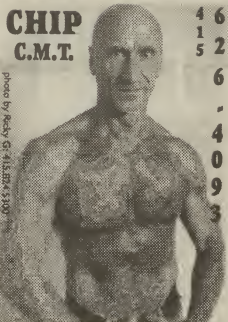


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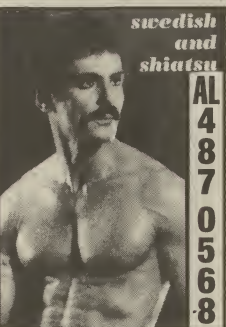
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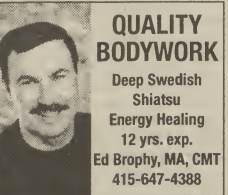
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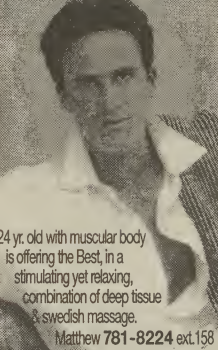
SFLove2Rub@aol.com

PAUL CMT



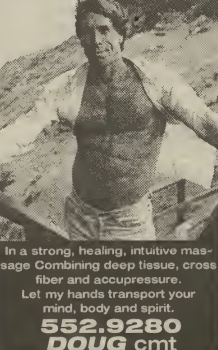
522.1821
9AM - 9PM

BRITAIN'S FINEST

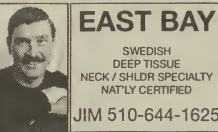


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Let my hands transport your
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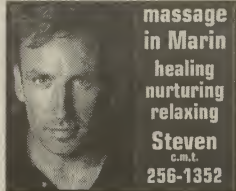


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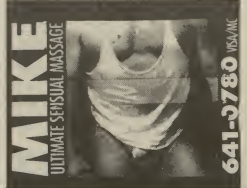
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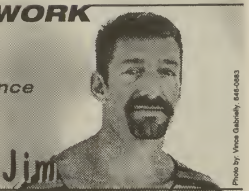


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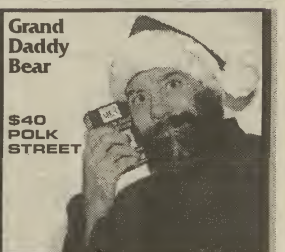
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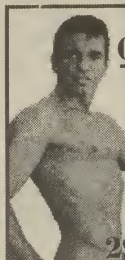
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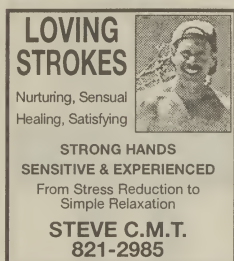


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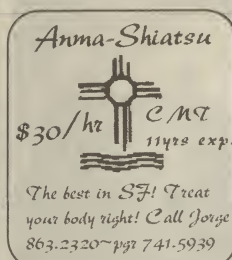
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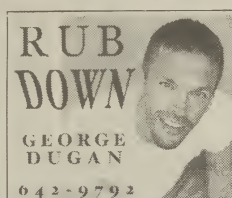
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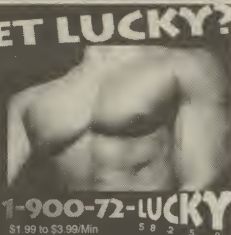
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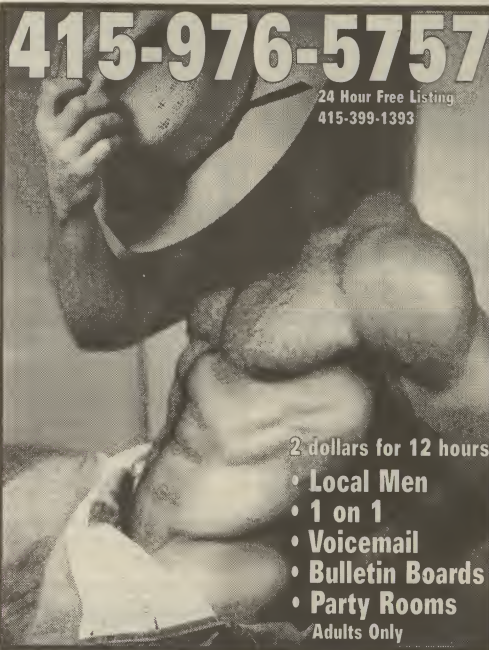
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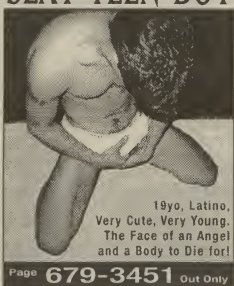
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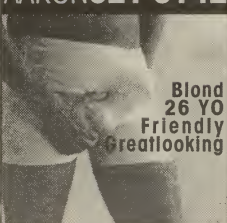
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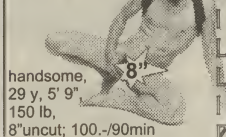
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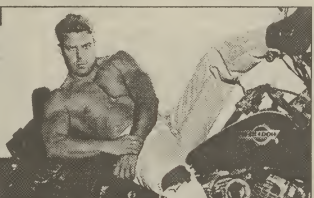
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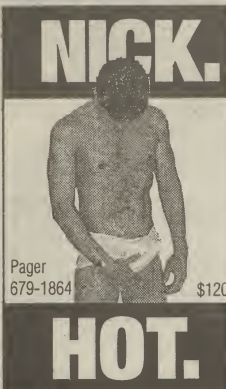
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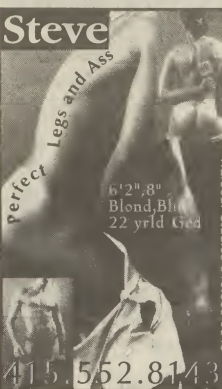
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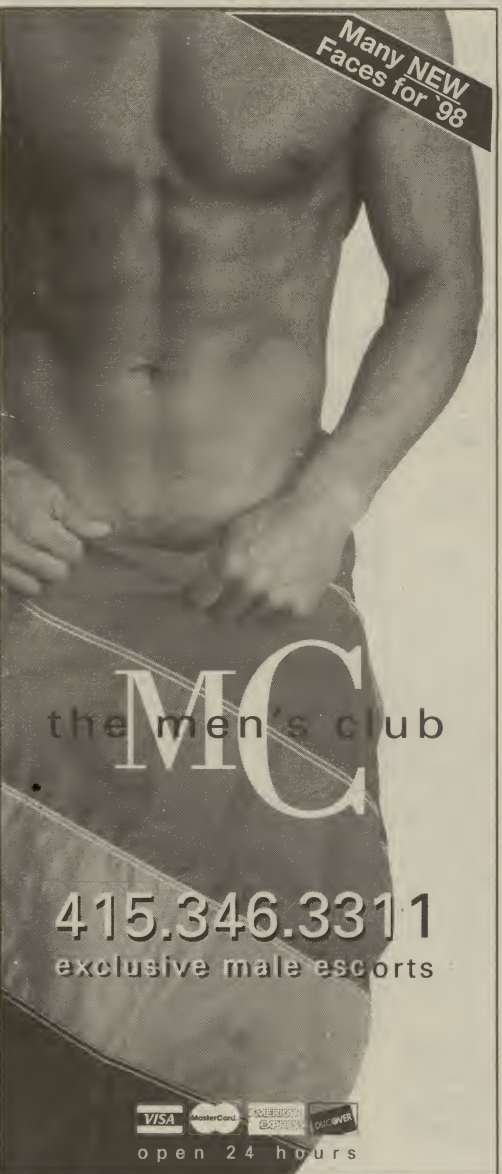
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Cute guy 5'5, 135#, Nice chest & Arms, hung, smooth, bottom, older men welcome \$50 Donald 351-2034

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39yo Top, 6'1", 195#, 7" uncult, flat top mustache. Gd kiking. Into bondage, S/M W/S, CBT, F/F, most scenes, Beginner? Have playspace & equipment. 3way avail w/porn star Frank Parker Scott (415)790-0902 Pg#. In or out

Beautiful buffed smooth body waist 31"/wt. 160lbs/ht 5'11"
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Masculine top: Bottoms wanted

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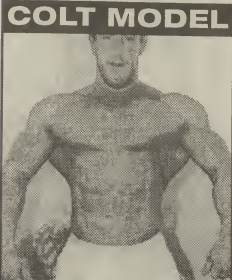
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for Brazilian muscle stud, beautiful looking, smooth body, dark blonde blue eyes, 5'11, 178#, very good looking, 33yrs, very horny, well-hung big balls, XXXhot In/Out vmail (415) 626-0672

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PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS

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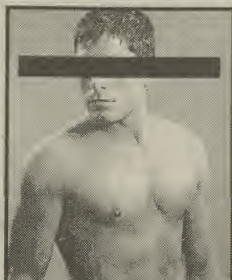
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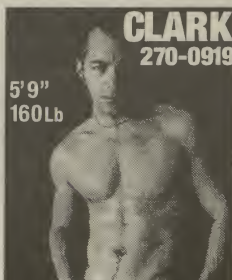
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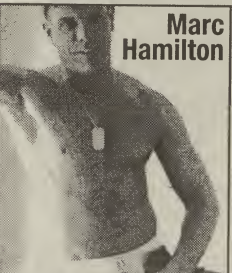
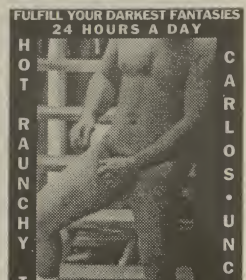


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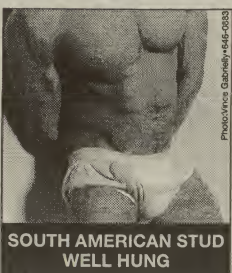
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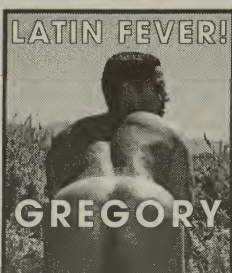


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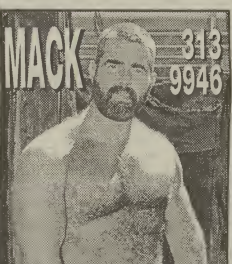
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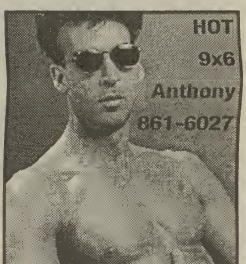


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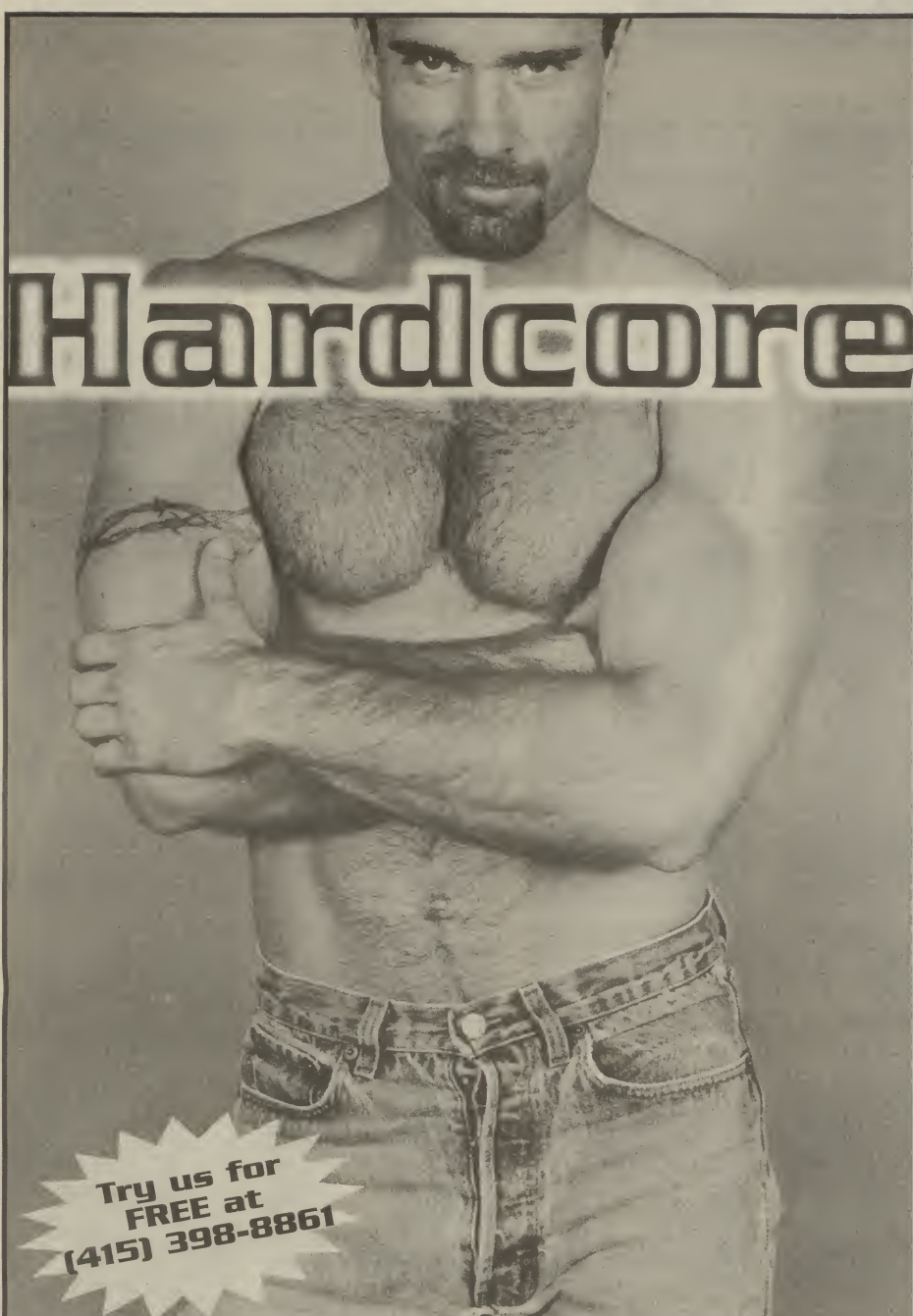
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